

Germany, europe, media: "**Migrants Will Soon Be The Powerful**" - German Broadsheet Causes Uproar With Immigration Article

BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, JUN 02, 2023 - 03:00 AM

[*Authored by Thomas Brooke via Remix News.*](#)

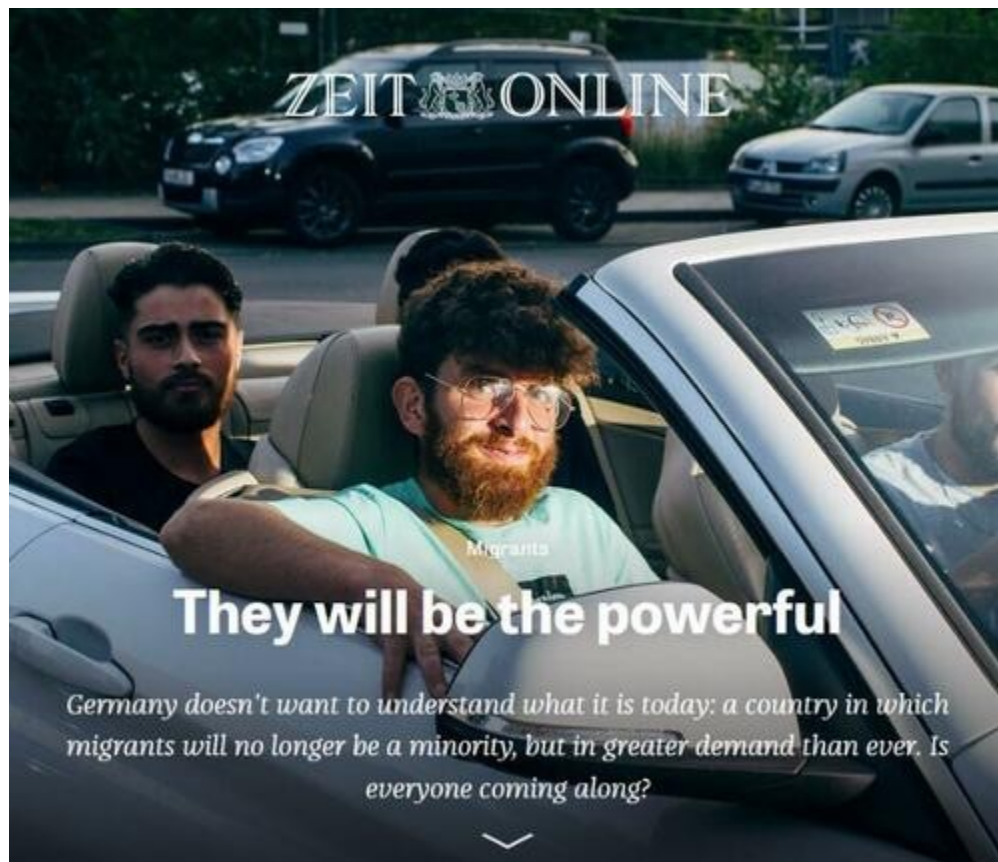
Die Zeit deleted the social media post linking to the article after a number of users expressed their outrage at the rhetoric, although many others praised the publication...

The German broadsheet Die Zeit has caused a storm on social media after publishing an article in which it claims **Germany will soon be “a country in which migrants will no longer be a minority.”**

Die Zeit, the Hamburg-based newspaper widely considered to be a more highbrow read than the tabloids, posted the article highlighting Germany’s irreparable demographic change to its socials on Tuesday with the caption:

Integration was yesterday: Germany is the second-largest immigration country in the world, and the original Germans are likely to become a numerical minority among many in the foreseeable future. And now?

The accompanying photo showed a group of four young immigrants in a top-down flash convertible smiling at the camera with the headline: ***“They will be the powerful.”***



The article recounted a time when there used to be a “familiar homeland” before “the others” came, explaining that Germany used to

have just 500,000 foreign nationals residing in the Federal Republic and the country “belonged to the Germans.”

You knew the neighbors. One understood what they said, what they believed, what they served up in the evening. There was peace. The economy grew miraculously.

Despite the article portraying a more peaceful era before mass immigration, the article itself is not anti-immigrant. It later attempts to persuade the reader to consider that Germany has almost always been a country of immigration, citing the Prussians who imported foreign workers — despite nearly all of these workers being European and Christian.

The article also claimed that Germany is “now safer than ever.” Despite statistics showing crime falling overall over the last decade, [murders](#) and gang rapes are increasing, and a [disproportionate share of them are committed by Germany’s foreign population](#). In fact, gang rapes [reached a record high in 2022](#), with half of the suspects being foreigners.

However, the article’s posting on social media caused a stir across the German political landscape as campaigners on both sides of the immigration debate commented on the story.

“Please what?” Green MEP Erik Marquardt wrote on Twitter in response to the Die Zeit post.

The social media post was later deleted and replaced with a new photo, depicting two white females and the caption, “In recent years, Germany has become the world’s second-largest immigration country without really wanting to admit it.”

“This teaser is almost even worse than the old one,” commented Marius Mestermann, a journalist with Der Spiegel, a sentiment shared by a number of other self-proclaimed liberals.

Others, however, praised the publication for drawing attention to the demographic changes in the country, an indisputable fact materialized through record levels of mass immigration under years of liberal governance.

This trend shows no signs of slowing down, with the German government prepared to spend €36 billion on its open borders policies this year, [despite growing resentment among the electorate](#). This public resistance is evidenced by [a rise in support for the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany \(AfD\) party](#).

Germany continues to experience record population growth, with [nearly 1.5 million migrants arriving in 2022](#), and 163,000 new arrivals in the first three months of 2023.

Censorship: Here's How OpenAI Plans To Cleanse ChatGPT Of False Information

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 11:00 PM

[Authored by Amaka Nwaokocha via CoinTelegraph.com.](#)

OpenAI aims to reduce AI hallucinations in ChatGPT by enhancing math skills, as process supervision shows promise in improving accuracy...

Latin America: Virginia, West Virginia Governors Sending National Guard Troops To Texas Border

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 10:40 PM

[Authored by Ryan Morgan via The Epoch Times](#) (emphasis ours),

Inflation, government: “Investor Home Purchases Fell a Record 49% Year Over Year in the First Quarter”

[Investor Home Purchases Fell a Record 49% in the First Quarter \(redfin.com\)](https://www.redfin.com/news/investor-home-purchases-fell-a-record-49-in-the-first-quarter)

Censorship: **Shellenberger: Why The Media Is Attacking Free Speech**

BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, JUN 01, 2023 - 07:20 PM

[Authored by Michael Shellenberger via 'Public' substack.](#)

[Governments around the world are cracking down on free speech.](#) What they are demanding includes the ability to [read private encrypted text messages](#) and [invade homes in search of wrongspeech](#). Their demands thus go far beyond what the Censorship Industrial Complex was able to get away with over the last six years.

**Inflation, government, journal
(Same thing happening to the
banking industry: all sectors
becoming top heavy, with most
dominated by companies receiving**

While I have to respect the stock market resilience yesterday, it is difficult to be bullish with a slightly (just slightly) bearish view on rates here. Maybe stocks can trade the “good news” as “good news”, but I suspect that will be difficult.

My view that equities can change their positioning far more rapidly than the past (so I don't think the “squeezy” feeling we got yesterday, lasts). The relative YTD performance of the Dow (3%) the S&P 500 (8%) and the Nasdaq Composite (14%) is striking. If you dig into “most shorted” stocks, the relative performance is somewhere between stunning and mind-boggling. Yes, there is generally more breadth to recent rallies, than we saw in 2022, but it is still a high beta, highly shorted grab more than anything else.

Government, stats: feb15 Florida orange growers are harvesting their smallest crop in nearly 90 years, the result of a freeze, two hurricanes and a citrus disease that is laying waste to its groves.

Stats, censorship, government: feb15 wsj suggests people skip breakfast to save money as an option against sudden price increases for daily morning staple food products.

Feb 14, 2023 at 10:10 am ET

To Save Money, Maybe You Should Skip Breakfast

By [Gabriel T. Rubin](#)

Several breakfast staples saw sharp price increases due to a perfect storm of bad weather and disease outbreaks—and continued effects from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Egg prices increased 8.5% in January from a month earlier and are up 70.1% over the past year, the highest annual rate since 1973. The deadliest [avian-influenza outbreak](#) on record has devastated poultry flocks across the U.S., leading the price of eggs to rise more than any other grocery item in 2022, according to Information Resources Inc. U.S. egg inventories were 29% lower

in the final week of December 2022 than at the beginning of 2022, according to the USDA.

Frozen, noncarbonated juices and drinks—a category that includes frozen orange juice—rose by 1.5% in January from a month earlier, and the 12.4% annual increase is the highest in over a decade. Florida orange growers are harvesting their smallest crop in nearly 90 years, the result of a freeze, two hurricanes and a citrus disease that is [laying waste to its groves](#).

Breakfast cereal increased more modestly in January from a month earlier—just 0.4%—but prices in the category were up 15% over a year, in part because of elevated global grain prices resulting from [disruptions related to the war in Ukraine](#).

Breakfast lovers might be better off just having a cup of coffee—but go with roasted, not instant. Prices for roasted coffee declined by 0.1% last month, but instant coffee rose by a 3.6% monthly increase for instant coffee.

Journal, readlater: feb15 **crazy rough stat: "Where finance represented a few percent of the entire economy in previous decades, it now accounts for roughly 20% of the economy: nothing but churn."**

Finance sells its "services" as *hedges*, but this is merely PR cover for predation. Finance creates no real-world goods or services; it is a structure of exploitation that is more like a criminal syndicate than a sector of the economy.

Given its parasitic, predatory nature, it's not surprising that finance is the primary engine of extreme wealth-income inequality. The fortunes of the few assembled over the past two decades largely trace back to the expansion of debt and leverage (i.e. financialization) which emphasizes marketing as consumption expands not from earnings but from the expansion of debt and leverage.

The problem is parasitic, predatory finance is inherently unstable, as it destabilizes the real economy by distorting every level of regulation and governance and deranges incentives to reward the least civic-minded, the least ethical and the sleaziest self-absorbed gamblers, those who demand a bailout when their *private gains* turn into *private losses*.

We're too big to fail, they whine, and the naive public bought that fraud in 2008-09.

this chart is sort of a fallacy as it assumes all production after the dot-com bubble was "industrial", You'd think what would be considered industrial production would not represent total production value, as the world has

shifted from an industrial economy to a data driven economy. But I could be wrong because I don't know if that industrial production is including big tech, or at least properly representing it in the data discrepancy seen in the chart present below, where the presenter is attempted to show the divergance of market value from true value by showing industrial production flatlining compared the stock market. Is inddustrial production fully representing total production? If it was, then yes, the chart would be very meaningful. But we don't klnow that, and I have strong susp[icions that it is not. But anyways, here it is

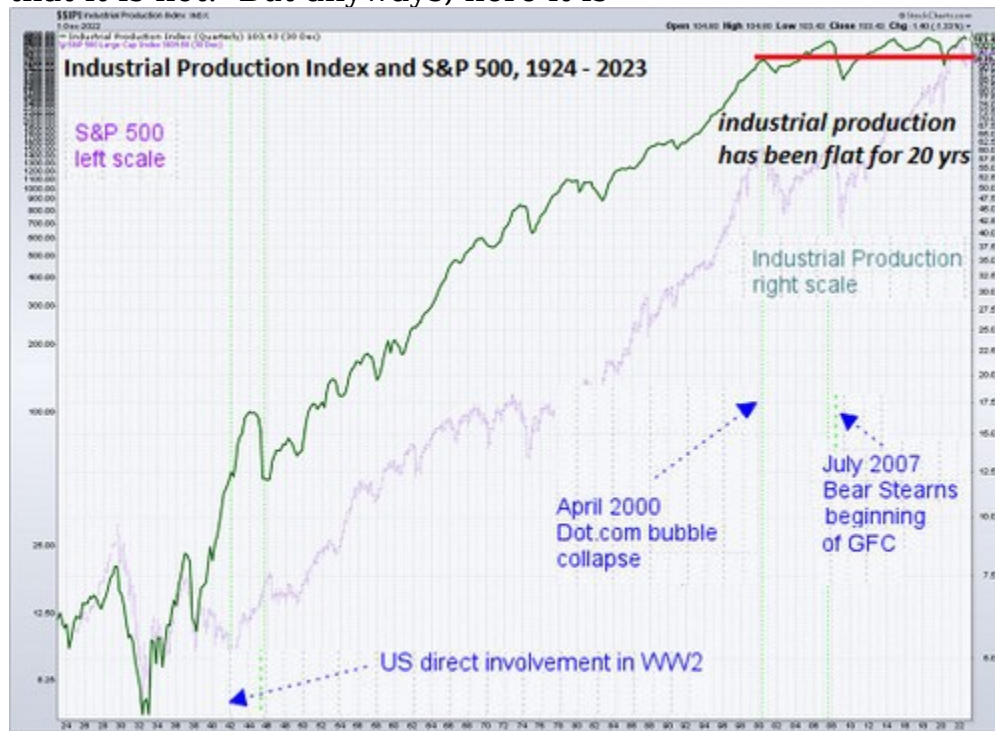
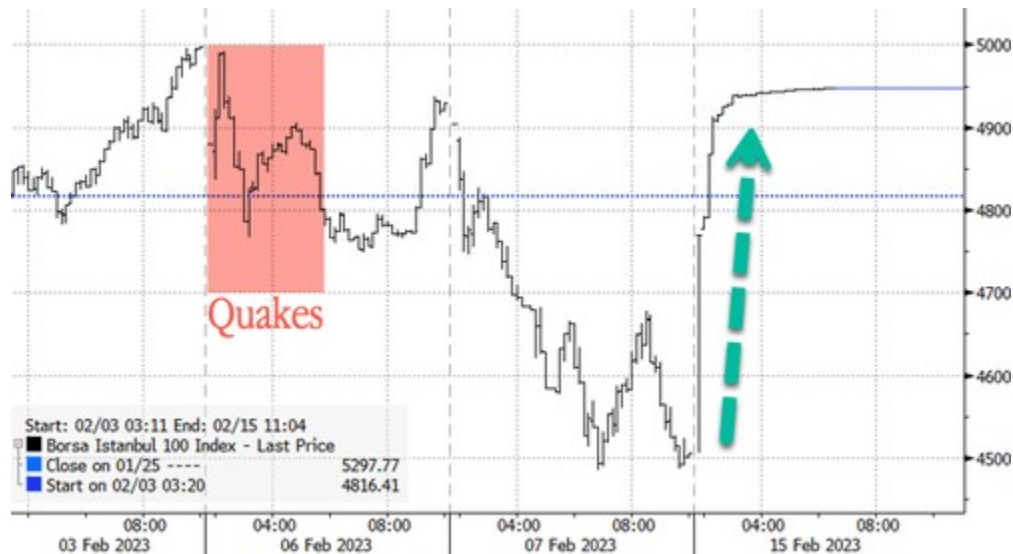


chart courtesy of David E. notes in black by www.oftwominds.com

Markets, government, stats, jurnal, readlater; this is a great, real life example of how government intervention can change the markets. Everything was in freefall, then they give the announcement, but ins tead

Turkey Soar On State Support As Quake Deaths Surpass 40,000



We get this..

The Borsa Istanbul 100 Index jumped 9.82% today, as the main equity benchmark recovered much of its losses since the twin earthquakes rocked the country's southeast region on Feb. 6.

After a [week-long suspension](#), Turkish stocks soared Wednesday after the country's sovereign wealth fund supported financial markets to prevent further declines following last week's twin earthquakes. The death toll in Turkey and neighboring Syria has surpassed 40,000.

Here are the top headlines via Bloomberg of the intervention to save financial markets:

- *Turkey Stocks Surge as State Support Underwrites Reopening Boost*
- *Turkey Injects Billions of Liras to Prop Up Stocks Before Open*
- *Turkey Wealth Fund to Support Equities With New Mechanism*
- *Turkey Set to Temporarily Suspend Some Gold Imports*
- *Turkey Plans Tax Waiver for Share Buybacks on Stock Exchange*

War, Russia, government: feb15 **Truck Overturms In Arizona, Spills Nitric Acid, Triggers Shelter-In-Place Alert**

An emergency shelter-in-place was issued, then dropped, **and then re-issued on Wednesday** for nearby residents in Tucson after a truck carrying nitric acid overturned on Feb. 14, **killing the driver** and triggering a hazmat warning.

Residents were warned to avoid the area and seek alternate routes of travel, while anyone within a one-mile perimeter of the incident has been instructed to turn off air conditioning and heaters in order to avoid bringing in outside air.

Shelter in Place Alert Issued

The Arizona Department of Transport (DOT) [announced](#) the crash around 3 p.m. local time. By 5:09 p.m., the Arizona DPS said the tanker was leaking hazardous material.

“Interstate 10 remains closed in both directions between Rita and Kolb roads in Tucson,” per the Arizona DPS. “Motorists should continue to avoid the area and seek an alternate route.” The DPS [added](#) in a Twitter post: “We anticipate an extensive closure. Please avoid the area.”

Meanwhile, the Arizona DOT [said](#) that there is “no estimated time to reopen the road.”

Africa, war: feb15 At Least 32 Civilians Killed in DR Congo, Says the UN

At least 32 civilians have been killed by rebel groups in eastern Congo’s Ituri province, said a spokesman for the United Nations.

Twenty people were killed by the militia group CODECO and a dozen were killed by the Allied Democratic Forces, which is allied to the Islamic State group, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a press conference on Monday.

Calling the situation “confusing,” Dujarric said it is hard for the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo to get more information due to restricted movement in the area.

Fighting between CODECO, a loose association of various ethnic Lendu militia groups, and Zaire, a mainly ethnic Hema self-defense group, has been ongoing since 2017 but has worsened recently. At least 32 civilians were killed by CODECO last month, say local officials. In December, the United Nations said the insurgent group was expanding its areas of control, attacking civilians and Congo’s military, and taxing communities in the areas that it holds.

The killings come amid surging violence across eastern Congo, where conflict has been simmering for decades as more than 120 armed groups are fighting in the region, most for land and control of mines with valuable minerals, while some groups are trying to protect their communities.

Stats, war, government: feb15 **Australia Removes Chinese-Made Cameras From Politicians' Offices**

War, Erdogan, energy, government: feb15 **US to Sell Another 26 Million Barrels of Oil From Strategic Oil Reserve**

Yet according to a new Reuters [report](#), the Department of Energy had announced it would conduct the sale of the 26 million barrels. This, Reuters noted in its report, would push the SPR even lower than it already is, which is the lowest in 40 years.

The reason for the low levels of the country's strategic petroleum reserve is the 180-million-barrel sale that President Biden mandated last year in a bid to reduce exorbitant retail fuel prices resulting from the global oil price rally, itself a market reaction to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the consequent barrage of sanctions the collective West unleashed on it.

The additional sales, contrary to many expectations, did the job, not least because oil prices themselves began to decline after the initial jump amid the heightened geopolitical uncertainty. Yet worry began to emerge about the state of the SPR and when it would be replenished.

The administration announced a range of between \$67 and \$72 per barrel, at which it would begin buying crude to refill the SPR but prices have not declined to those levels since last year.

By Charles Kennedy for Oilprice.com

War, Erdogan: feb15 **Turkish Opposition Doesn't Want to Delay the Elections**

Iraq Asks US to Replace Russian Mi-17 Helicopters With American Aircraft Due to Spare Parts Shortage

War, erdgan, stats: feb15 **First UN team since quake crosses into rebel-held Syria**

More..

Damascus Opens New Border Crossings as Militants Obstruct Aid Efforts

The Syrian government has officially opened two new border crossings in northern Syria in order to provide [earthquake](#) relief aid to people in [opposition-held](#) territory, Deputy Head of the Russian Reconciliation Center, Major General Oleg Yegorov, said at a briefing on 13 February.

“In compliance with President Bashar al-Assad’s instructions in the interest of delivering assistance to affected people in territories not controlled by the Syrian government, checkpoints have been unilaterally opened in Saraqib and Abu Azeidin. Convoys with humanitarian cargoes, which include food products, heating devices, and tents ... are ready to set off for the affected areas escorted by representatives of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC),” Yegorov said.

Yegorov’s statement followed high-level talks between Assad and UN aid chief Martin Griffiths in Damascus on the same day, during which the Syrian president agreed to open the [crossings](#).

“It’s going to make a big difference. We are now using just one crossing,” a UN spokesman told media in reference to the Bab al-Hawa crossing with Turkiye.

While western media outlets have attempted to pin the hindered aid delivery efforts to northwestern Syria on “the Assad government’s mismanagement and refusal to engage with all areas,” it appears to be armed groups who have impeded humanitarian efforts.

On 12 February, a UN spokesman told media that the [Hayat Tahrir al-Sham](#) (HTS) extremist group, formerly known as the Jabhat al-Nusra Al-Qaeda branch in Syria, was preventing a SARC humanitarian aid convoy at the Saraqib border crossing from entering Idlib. The Saraqib crossing is the link between Idlib and the territories held by Damascus.

The screenshot shows a news article from Reuters titled "Syria quake aid held up by HTS 'approval issues', says U.N. spokesperson". The article is dated February 12, 2023, and includes a photo of a damaged city. To the right of the article is a Twitter post from @ibnwalid, which includes a quote from an HTS source: "Turkey has opened all the roads and we won't allow the regime to take advantage of the situation to show they are helping." Below the article and tweet are several news snippets from the same website, including "Jordan's Game of Thrones: Power struggle of the Hashemite family", "US army training ISIS, Al-Qaeda fighters in Syria to deploy to Russia: Report", "The Big Stiff: Russia-Iran dump the dollar and bust US sanctions", and "Saudi Arabia eager to join SCO, BRICS: Russian diplomat". At the bottom right of the news section is a "Make a Donation" button. The bottom of the screenshot shows a Windows taskbar with the date 2/15/2023 and time 12:51 PM.

That day, an HTS source was quoted as saying that the group “won’t allow the regime to take advantage of the situation to show they are helping,” despite Damascus having openly announced its intention to provide aid to all areas of Syria. The following day, HTS leader Abu

Muhammad al-Julani claimed during a press conference that his group “does not have teams ready to secure these deliveries.” This was seen by many as HTS’ outright refusal and rejection of any aid deliveries coming from government territory to the opposition-held north, given that Jolani failed to provide a proper explanation as to why this aid could not make its way through.

“There is no need to dispatch our technical teams to bring aid in from regime territory ... The Bab al-Hawa crossing is there ... For those who want to help, Bab al-Hawa is open, God willing,” the former Nusra emir said, despite the fact that the Bab al-Hawa crossing was badly damaged in the earthquake.

During Monday’s briefing, Yegorov added that the “lack of security guarantees on territories controlled by illegal armed groups complicates the delivery of assistance to those affected by the earthquake, who are in dire straits.”

In a since-deleted news article by Syrian outlet *North Press Agency* (NPA) released on 14 February, NPA cites an exclusive source as saying that a day earlier, international organizations suspended their operations and withdrew from the town of Soran in the northern Aleppo countryside after members of the Turkish-backed militant coalition, the Syrian National Army (SNA) looted a humanitarian aid delivery. As a result, ‘clashes erupted’ between the militants and the town’s inhabitants.

Stats, government: feb15 Indonesia's 'Trial of the Century' Ends in Death Sentence for Head of Internal Affairs Department

Medan, Indonesia – Indonesia’s so-called “trial of the century” has concluded with a senior police officer sentenced to death for the murder of his bodyguard.

Ferdy Sambo, the former head of Indonesia’s Internal Affairs department and a two-star general, was handed the death penalty on Monday by Chief Justice Wahyu Imam Santoso for the killing of his aide-de-camp, Police Brigadier Nofriansyah Yosua Hutabarat, in a case widely seen as a litmus test of police accountability in Indonesia.

Feb. 15 Marks 34th Anniversary of Soviet Withdrawal From Afghanistan

Kyrgyzstan to Host Russia-Led Defense Bloc Drills

Quake Death Toll Passes 40,000 in Turkey, Syria

Islam, stats, censorship, middle east: Florists with wilting bouquets of red roses and street vendors clutching unsold balloons were heartbroken in the Afghan capital on Tuesday after the Taliban's morality police banned Valentine's Day celebrations.

Florists with wilting bouquets of red roses and street vendors clutching unsold balloons were heartbroken in the Afghan capital on Tuesday after the Taliban's morality police banned Valentine's Day celebrations.

While Valentine's Day has never been widely celebrated in Afghanistan, some well-off residents in cities have developed a tradition of marking the lovers' day in recent years.

In Kabul's famed Flower Street, shops were full of heart-shaped garlands and red stuffed animals, but hopelessly empty of customers.

In the window of one outlet, a poster signed off by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice warned shoppers: "Avoid celebrating lovers' day!"

The poster said Valentine's Day "is not Islamic and is not part of the Afghan culture but a sloganeering day of the infidels".

"Celebrating the day of lovers is showing sympathy to the Christian Pope," it read.

Officers from the ministry patrolled the area in their white uniforms, trailed by an armed escort, an AFP correspondent reported.

Kneeling in front of his shop, Omar -- who did not share his surname -- pruned thorns and withered petals from his stock of flowers.

"[The Taliban authorities] published and distributed their order to every shop," he told AFP.

"I don't think I could sell these flowers today, people aren't buying," he said.

"You can see we have no customers -- the situation is very bad."

An AFP reporter saw a young couple furtively buy flowers and quickly leave the scene when they saw the morality police patrol.

"The situation has changed -- we can't celebrate it like other years," said browsing shopper Zahrah, married for seven years.

"But we do celebrate it. There are some restrictions and the situation is not good, but we celebrate it at home."

Afghan men are reflected on the glass of a gift shop along Flower Street in Kabul

The vice ministry could not be reached for comment on the exact nature of the ban.

The Taliban authorities have issued various restrictions on social life in the country since they came to power in August 2021.

Music, social media apps and video games have all come under scrutiny by the ultra-conservative government.

The authorities have particularly cracked down on Afghan women, effectively squeezing them out of public life.



Journal, readlater, middle east, war: feb15 UNICEF: Hundreds of Afghan Children Died in January Due to Cold Weather, Illness (add vs ther countries)

Tech, ai, war: feb15 Dutch Host First Summit on 'Responsible' Use of AI in Military

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Delegations from both the United States and China are set to attend a summit on the "responsible" use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the military this week in the Netherlands, the first of its kind.

**Middle east, iran, war: US Says There're 'No Discussions' on Reviving Iran Deal feb15
Stoltenberg: Finland, Sweden Could Join NATO Separately**

Iran, China Sign 20 Cooperation Agreements in Beijing

Russia Denies Claims It Plans to Destabilize Moldova

Putin Talks to Azerbaijan President, Discusses Disputed Southern Caucasus Region

Norway to Donate Eight Leopard 2 Tanks to Ukraine

Austria Refuses to Train Ukrainian Soldiers on Leopard Tanks

Journal, stats, government, war: feb15 Actual example of people, to steal a quote from Nathan Rothchild “buying land when there is blood on the streets”. Yes, today, JPM is literally offering investors the ability to profit off of the destruction of the Ukraine. But only for certain private clients, of course, as there will likely be a minimum buy-in.

JP Morgan reaches agreement with Ukraine's Zelenskyy on rebuilding infrastructure, presents Patriots jersey

J.P. Morgan believes attracting private capital will be key to Ukraine's ability to fight off Russian aggression

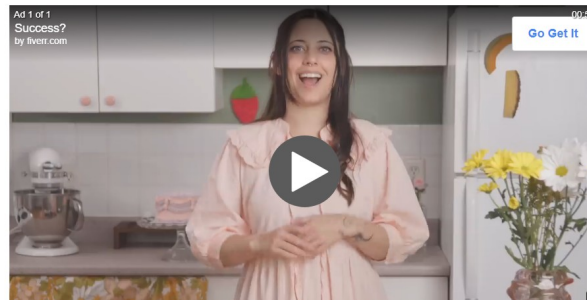
By Charlie Gasparino | FOXBusiness



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DOW JONES AVERAGES (DJI)

33,995.43

▼ -93.84 (-0.28%)

NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX (COMP)

11,917.24

▼ -42.90 (-0.36%)

S&P 500 (SP500)

4,115.89

▼ -20.24 (-0.49%)

priceless: JPM announces it will be offering private clients--usually handled by divisions known as "private-banks" which tailor to ultra-high income investors--the opportunity to literally "buy land when there is blood on the streets" through special investment fund that plans to assist in the rebuilding efforts for the country

"J.P. Morgan, the nation's largest bank, has signed a memorandum of understanding with Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelenskyy with the eye on attracting private capital for a new investment fund to [rebuild Ukraine's infrastructure](#) that has been destroyed in its war with Russia, FOX Business has learned.

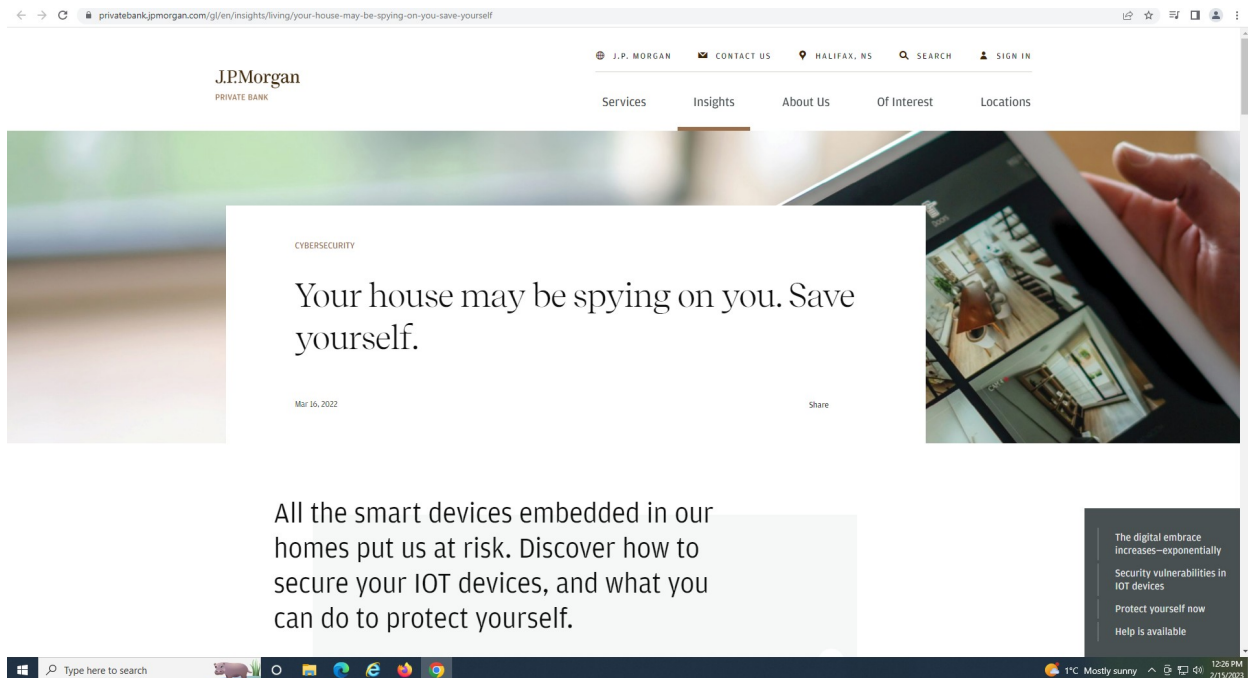
J.P. Morgan bankers spent most of last week meeting with Zelenskyy and his senior staff in Ukraine where they discussed the creation of a fund seeded with \$20 billion to \$30 billion in private capital, according to people with direct knowledge of the matter.

Other ideas discussed with the Ukrainian president were the creation of a bank administered by Wall Street firms that would make investments in oil refineries, roads, bridges and other pieces of economic infrastructure destroyed in Vladimir Putin's year-long campaign to annex the country and rebuild the old Soviet Union, these people add."

[J.P. Morgan bankers were on the ground](#) in Kyiv and other cities, dodging bombs, and witnessing firsthand how the war has crippled the country's economy. After a series of meetings with various ministers, they met directly with Zelenskyy on Friday night. As a gesture of goodwill on the eve of Sunday's [Super Bowl](#), the bankers also presented Zelenskyy with a New England Patriots jersey with the number "91," to signify the year Ukraine gained independence from the old Soviet Union, these people say.

"Ukraine's reconstruction will have a huge price tag, with the World Bank estimating in December that it could cost [between 500 and 600 billion euros](#) (\$525 billion-\$630 billion). Last July, Ukrainian officials estimated the "recovery plan" [will cost about \\$750 billion](#). As the war goes on and more of Ukraine is destroyed, the price tag will increase."

Stats, government, censorship, tech, ai, journal:
feb15 **jpm's private banking division warns their clients that their house.....could be spying on them...**



CYBERSECURITY

Your house may be spying on you. Save yourself.

Mar 16, 2022

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All the smart devices embedded in our homes put us at risk. Discover how to secure your IOT devices, and what you can do to protect yourself.

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The seemingly benign digital devices we have in our homes may actually threaten our well-being.

Already the average U.S. household now has more than 10 internet-connected devices in residence, and that number is rapidly growing—both in the United States and across the globe.¹ Indeed, by 2023, it is estimated there will be three times more networked devices on the planet than humans.²

Yet all these new “smart devices,” including fitness equipment, digital personal assistants, gaming consoles, thermostats and security cameras, etc., can potentially endanger not only our privacy and physical safety, but our finances as well. Just think: Even President Biden’s connected exercise bike had to be modified so it would not endanger U.S. national security.

Of course, no one is likely to give up the digital gadgets that make life easier and fun. But it is wise for all of us to recognize there’s a new and urgent need to guard the door into our lives that internet-enabled devices prop open.

The digital embrace increases—exponentially

How many internet-connected devices do you have at home right now? Don’t just count the televisions, gaming consoles, computers, printers, laptops, tablets, phones, digital watches, digital personal assistants, music systems and nanny cams.

We also have to keep an eye on the ever-growing list of internet-enabled devices that help make our homes a Sanctuary. That includes security systems and all the smart devices installed in our homes: refrigerators and vacuums as well as lighting, thermostats, and yes, workout equipment.

In fact, property technology, or “PropTech,” is already a new category in the world of real estate. Smart home technology has even become standard in some upscale homes and multi-family dwellings.

Security vulnerabilities in IOT devices

How dangerous might these devices be to you and your family?

Your digital conveniences—fitness and health data, home entertainment systems, energy usage, voice recordings and sites you access—all can be used to build a profile of you and your family that criminals can leverage to commit financial fraud, privacy invasions and even home break-ins, both physical and cyber.

You might not have even been aware you signed terms and conditions to allow these devices to listen, collect usage data and allow manufacturers to sell or share your information with third parties.

Cybercriminals can put even the most innocent-seeming devices to nefarious uses:

- A home thermostat could reveal you are not at the house during the week and only home on the weekends when the temperature has been remotely set higher.
- A smart vacuum can create a map of your home layout and share the data back to the manufacturers, potentially giving insights to thieves.
- Fitness equipment could be used to listen to your conversations, as well as capture and share your personal health information.

Protect yourself now

It'd be natural to think that internet connectivity is so woven into our daily lives that there is little you can do—or to despair, thinking that meaningful action would require hours of your time or a tech-obsessed teenaged child. Not so. There are some simple things you can do fairly quickly.

First, we recommend that you have at least two separate networks in your home. Use one for all your business, sensitive transactions and remote work. Dedicate a separate network for less sensitive transactions, for instance, your children's or parents' online activities, schoolwork, family entertainment and social media. If you have a highly connected home, consider adding a third network, possibly solely for smart devices.

Next, and it cannot be stressed how important this simple step remains: Make sure your passwords are complicated, changed regularly, and different across devices and networks. Consider using a reputable password manager to help you securely manage all those usernames and passwords.

Put a webcam cover on your computers, laptops, tablets and fitness equipment when you're not using their cameras. And be sure to put your devices on "mute" when you're not using them.

Avoid adding new smart devices to your home network without professional input, as correct device set up is as critical as device security. And, before you move into a new home, find out what sort of internet-enabled devices may be built into them.

Help is available

You do not have to tackle the challenge of your digital life alone. While President Biden obviously has top security professionals watching his digital back, you can enlist the help of experts too. Many reputable firms can help you with both installation and security upkeep.

You also can contact your J.P. Morgan team to learn more about our cybersecurity and fraud awareness programs, or to schedule a session with our cybersecurity experts.

And you can stay aware of the latest trends and protection measures you might take by simply visiting our [Cybersecurity and Fraud Prevention Hub](#) on a regular basis. To understand how you can more securely utilize the various “smart devices” in your home, reach out to your J.P. Morgan team for a list of best practices on keeping your Internet of Things (IoT) and smart devices secure.

The world of home tech is changing rapidly. Keep you and your family safe.

[Find out more about cybersecurity and fraud prevention](#)

¹ Statista, "Average number of connected devices residents have access to in the U.S. households in 2020", February 2022

² RCR Wireless, “Connected devices will be 3x the global population by 2023, Cisco says” February 2020

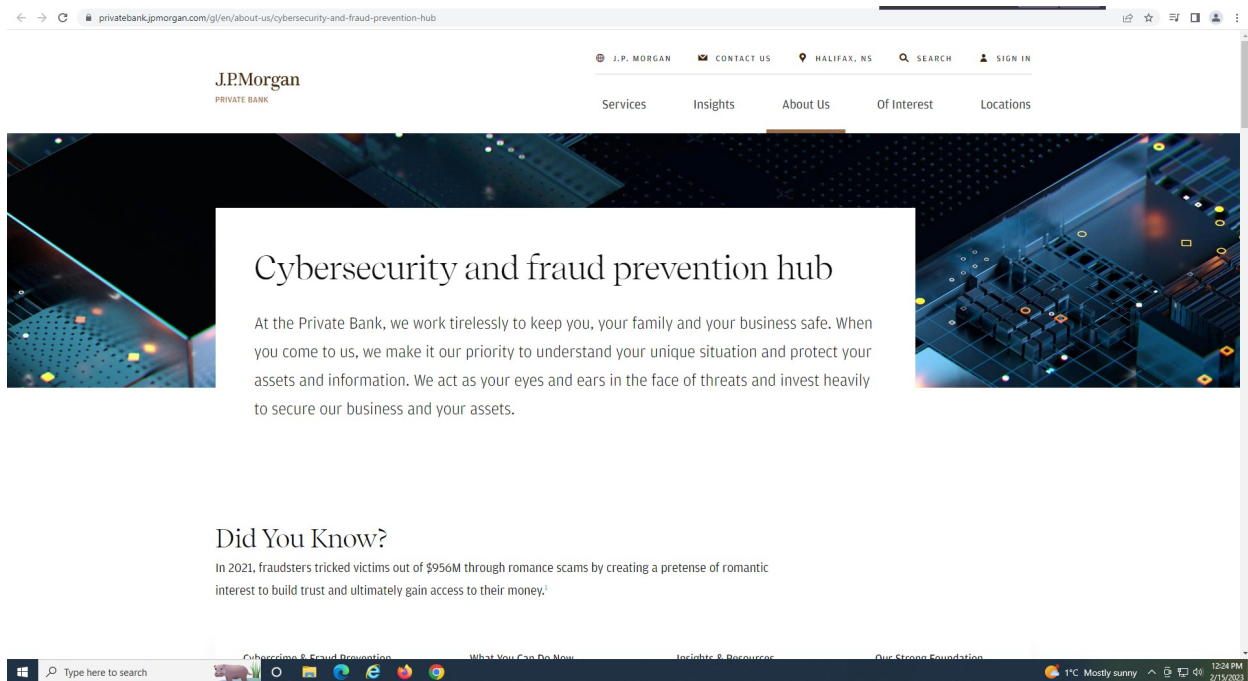
- [Lifestyle](#)
- [Cybersecurity](#)
- [Life Events](#)
- [Fraud](#)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This information is provided for educational and informational purposes only and is not intended, nor should it be relied upon, to address every aspect of the subject discussed herein. The information provided in this document is intended to help clients protect themselves from cyber fraud. It does not provide a comprehensive listing of all types of cyber fraud activities and it does not identify all types of cybersecurity best practices. You, your company or organization is responsible for determining how to best protect itself against cyber fraud activities and for selecting the cybersecurity best practices that are most appropriate to your needs.

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Stats: feb15 In 2021, fraudsters tricked victims out of \$956M through romance scams by creating a pretense of romantic interest to build trust and ultimately gain access to their money, according to the cybersecurity section of jpm's private banking divisions website..



Dating or defrauding? What to know about romance scams

Feb 13, 2023

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With Valentine's Day upon us, it is the opportune time for fraudsters to strike. Explore how you can protect your loved ones from an online attraction that could ultimately be a scam.

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[Marlene Ruiz, Global Fraud Awareness](#)

Nadia Manara, Global Fraud Awareness

Online dating apps have made it so much easier to make a connection. But scammers are also online—preying on people’s desire to meet *the one* and tricking them into cyber sweetheart relationships while draining their funds.

Since the pandemic, romance scams have steadily increased, according to a recent report by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).¹ Many scams disproportionately target individuals over 60, who represented 32% of all victims in 2021; individuals in the 30–50-plus age group embodied approximately 15%.

How the scams play out

A typical romance scam begins with the creation of a fake online identity. Once the fraudster makes a connection with a potential target, they endeavor to appear genuine, caring and attentive. Usually, the relationship evolves very quickly as the scammer seeks to gain the target’s trust, paving the way for fraud to occur.

The first red flag may be a request for funds. Often, fraudsters will fabricate a reason to ask for money—and if they sense vulnerability, the amount may increase with each request. Common inducements are: paying for medical emergencies, travel expenses (supposedly to visit), or investment opportunities. Once their victims agree to send money, fraudsters specify how they wish to receive the funds. Requests for payment via wire transfers, payment apps or cryptocurrencies are typical.

Fraudsters exploit the premise of the relationship in an attempt to trick victims—and a significant amount of money may be at risk. According to the latest FBI report, in 2021, victims of online confidence fraud and romance scams

reported more than \$956 million in losses, a 60% increase over 2020—and a 101% increase since 2019.²

Five ways to protect your loved ones

1. **Conduct due diligence.** Look into the identity of any individual who approaches you or a family member online.
2. **Be instinctual.** Pay attention to red flags, such as inconsistencies in information shared, excuses to not meet in person—or via video chat—and especially any requests for money or information about the value of financial holdings. Be wary if things seem too good to be true.
3. **Safeguard personal information.** Don't answer probing questions about financial circumstances, and never share details such as bank account numbers, trusted contact details or login credentials.
4. **Protect assets.** Do not send any money anywhere without a thorough review of the person who is going to receive it. Safeguard financial accounts—and encourage your family members to do so, too—by creating strong login credentials and enabling notification alerts about any unauthorized activity.
5. **Reduce exposure.** Help your loved ones minimize their digital profiles: Details shared on social media and online platforms may give fraudsters enough information to target and trick.

Remember, fraudsters count on the power of shame to prevent their victims from reporting romantic scams. Assure any family member or friend who may be the victim of romantic deception that they are not alone—and have nothing to be embarrassed about. Many people do find love through online connections. But it's like dating in any setting: Take it slow and verify before you trust.

We can help

If you believe you (or your loved ones) may have been targeted in any kind of online scam, [freeze your credit](#) and speak with your J.P. Morgan team immediately.

¹The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, [2021 Internet Crime Report](#). Data as of March 2022.

War, Russia: feb14 **China Says US Sent 10 Balloons Over Its Territory**

Yes, it is the DPP that puts partisan interests over everything, creating obstacles in people's daily lives. After coming to power in 2016, they immediately tore apart the agreement with the mainland on maintaining direct flights, mail, and business ties. As a result, families were torn apart, communication hindered and normal business activities curbed.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202302/14/WS63eac373a31057c47ebae8b4.html>

War, Erdogan: feb14 nikkei, u.s shuts down key naval base due to concerns of earthquake activity: "The statement explained the decision was related to a recently conducted seismic assessment, which identified the possibility of a large-scale earthquake occurring while a submarine was under maintenance at the shipyard."

[INDO-PACIFIC](#)

Earthquake outweighs China in U.S. Navy's decision to close docks

Submarine maintenance put on hold as seismic concerns are addressed

The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine USS Alabama (SSBN 731) is seen docked at Naval Base Kitsap's Delta Pier, at the Trident Refit Facility in Bangor, Washington. © U.S. Navy

KEN MORIYASU, Nikkei Asia diplomatic correspondent February 8, 2023 13:00 JST

TOKYO -- The samurai, merchants and villagers living on Japan's east coast were puzzled on one January day in 1700 when a tsunami hit their towns. There was no associated earthquake in Japan that seemed to have triggered the devastating waves.

History books recorded the incident as the "orphan tsunami." It wasn't until 300 years later, in the 1990s, that the orphan tsunami was linked to its parent: a magnitude-9.0 earthquake that hit the U.S. Pacific Northwest on Jan. 26, 1700, some 8,000 kilometers away.

Now, fears of another giant earthquake occurring in similar waters have forced the U.S. Navy to suspend operations at four key dry docks in Washington state.

The Navy has announced that it will temporarily halt operations at three dry docks in Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility -- including dry dock 6, the only one on the West Coast capable of handling an aircraft carrier. It will also suspend one dry dock at the Trident Refit Facility, Bangor, the primary maintenance facility for the Navy's Pacific-based ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) fleet.

Together, the closures at the Pacific Northwest's largest naval shore facility will hamper the country's ability to provide

maintenance for its nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers.

The Navy said in a statement that it will take "additional measures to further ensure the safety of the shipyard workforce, sailors, the local public, the environment and the submarines" in case an earthquake strikes. "We will begin implementing these mitigations immediately and safely return our dry docks to full capacity as soon as possible," Vice Adm. Bill Galinis was quoted as saying.

The U.S. aircraft carrier USS Nimitz departs Dry Dock 6 at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Bremerton, Washington, after nine months of maintenance work.
© U.S. Navy

The Navy also said the suspensions do not affect the nation's strategic deterrent capability or the ability of the fleet to continue its overall mission. But already with an expanding backlog of vessels awaiting maintenance, this will likely impact the number of combat-ready ships at a time of great power competition with China.

The statement explained the decision was related to a recently conducted seismic assessment, which identified the possibility of a large-scale earthquake occurring while a submarine was under maintenance at the shipyard.

Ever since the Nisqually earthquake hit the southern part of Puget Sound in February 2001, the Navy has been conscious of seismic risks to the shipyard, allocating money to remediation.

But while the quake caused \$2 billion in damage, its scale was magnitude-6.8. The real fear is of a magnitude-8 or magnitude-9 earthquake, ultrastrong temblors that have previously occurred in the Cascadia subduction zone.

Earthquakes of such proportions in the Cascadia Subduction Zone are said to have a recurrence interval of about 500 years, plus or

minus 200 years. The last magnitude-9 level earthquake happened on that January evening in 1700.

A potential giant earthquake could trigger a series of large tsunamis and lead to landslides, land subsidence and widespread flooding -- which would have disastrous consequences should a nuclear-powered submarine or carrier be in the dry dock.

"This development is quite troubling, given the already unacceptable backlog in U.S. nuclear submarine maintenance," said Tom Shugart, a former U.S. submariner and an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security.

This is especially so, considering the key role submarines play in deterring an increasingly powerful Chinese military, he said.

"I'd like to think that the Navy conducted a holistic assessment of these relative risks -- the likely highly remote risk of an earthquake causing unacceptable damage to a docked submarine or ship, versus the risk of a failure of deterrence of China caused in part by a somewhat hobbled U.S. submarine force," Shugart said.

Blake Herzinger, a former intelligence officer with the U.S. Navy and a nonresident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, said the Navy will be looking to rectify the loss of dry dock capacity as soon as possible because it will be a "critical gap."

If boats wait longer to go into maintenance, they will be entering dry dock in worse shape, which means they will take longer to get out, Herzinger said.

"The knock-on effect becomes exponential. What used to be six months behind schedule becomes eight months, then 10, then 12.

Pretty soon you'll start having submarines breaking because they're not getting maintenance when they should," he said.

The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine USS Henry M. Jackson (SSBN 730) receives upgrades at the dry dock of the Intermediate Maintenance Facility in Puget Sound. © U.S. Navy

Herzinger noted that the subsurface environment is where the U.S. Navy still has a considerable advantage. "China has invested heavily in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities across the western Pacific with particular emphasis on targeting us aircraft carriers with ballistic missiles while they're maneuvering at sea," he said. "Submarine capability effectively neutralizes that Chinese capability."

In the past, the U.S. Navy has operated 13 naval shipyards but many were closed after the end of the Cold War when the defense budget was trimmed in the hope of a "peace dividend."

The U.S. is now down to four public shipyards -- in Norfolk, Virginia; Portsmouth, Maine; Puget Sound, Washington; and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. All are over 100 years old.

The docks in Washington state are especially important as they prepare the ships that are headed to the western Pacific, where tensions with China lie.

The temporary closure of the dry docks in Washington is not expected to influence U.S. plans to assist Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines.

"This will not affect AUKUS," said Brent Sadler, a senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, referring to the security pact between the U.S., U.K. and Australia.

"The construction of nuclear submarines is in Rhode Island and Virginia," Sadler said, pointing to the shipyards run by General Dynamics/Electric Boat and Huntington Ingalls Industries/Newport News Shipbuilding.

War, china, Erdogan: feb14 TUE FEB 14, AT 2:41 PM 4,039 5 In Sudden Narrative Shift, Pentagon

Admits Mystery Objects 'Probably' Private Craft Not Tied To Spying

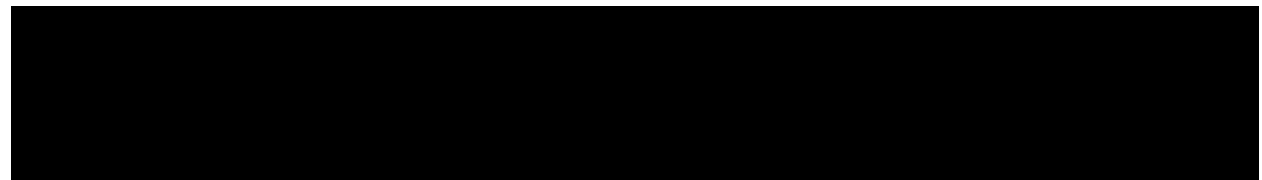
Edward Snowden called it (and [so did we](#))... just a day ago, as we [reported](#): NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden says the **hysteria over UFOs being shot down over America and Canada is a distraction** from Seymour Hersh's story about the U.S. being responsible for blowing up the Nord Stream pipelines.

Less than 24 hours later, on Tuesday, [Bloomberg](#) reports that "The US government has assessed that three unidentified objects downed since last Friday **were likely for commercial use and not foreign intelligence gathering.**"

USA Today: "Little By Little" Russia Is Winning Key Ground War

USA Today raised some eyebrows when it deviated from the usual narrative by acknowledging "little by little" Russia is winning the ground war in a pivotal area of Ukraine, citing a quote given by a pro-Ukraine spokeswoman.

'Little by little they are winning': Tide turns in key Ukraine city: Updates as Russian offensive begins.



Russia gains ground in Bakhmut: 'Little by little they are winning'

The battle for the pivotal city of Bakhmut in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region has seen some of the fiercest fighting of the invasion. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office said the

situation in Bakhmut's northern suburb of Paraskoviivka was "difficult" amid intense shelling.

Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said Russian forces appeared to be adding manpower: "We're seeing a very tough battle in which the Russians aren't sparing neither themselves nor us."

Moscow controls both main roads into the city, leaving one back route left – a slender supply line, [the BBC reports](#).

"They have been trying to take the city since July," Iryna Rybakova, press officer for Ukraine's 93rd Brigade, told BBC. "Little by little they are winning now. They have more resources, so if they play the long game they will win. I can't say how long it will take.

"Maybe they will run out of resources. I really hope so."

Moldovan leader urges vigilance, says Russia sought to subvert government

Moldova's president claimed Monday that Moscow was plotting to overthrow her government with the aid of external saboteurs to put the nation "at the disposal of Russia" and derail its European Union aspirations. President Maia Sandu said her nation's intelligence services had confirmed plans – intercepted by Ukraine – developed by the Russian secret services to destroy Moldova's democracy.

"I want to ask you to stay vigilant, be attentive and trust the official information, as the most aggressive form of attack is the information attack," [she said](#). "The Kremlin's attempts to bring violence in our country will fail. We should keep calm. We should trust the Republic of Moldova."

Ukraine officials blast former Italian premier Berlusconi

Ukraine officials took former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to task Monday after he blamed Zelenskyy for the war. Berlusconi, breaking with current Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on the conflict, said Russia would not have invaded

Ukraine if Zelenskyy "would have ceased attacking the two autonomous republics of Donbas."

Meloni's office said her government maintains "solid and unwavering" support for Ukraine. Kyiv officials were more dramatic in their dissent.

"Berlusconi's senseless accusations against Zelenskyy are an attempt to kiss Putin's hands, bloodied up to the elbows," Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleg Nikolenko said on Facebook. He accused Berlusconi, a Putin supporter, of trying to "show his loyalty to the Russian dictator."

Keeping Zaporizhzhia or capturing Luhansk? Russian military faces dilemma

While making a push for the entire Donbas region in eastern Ukraine, the Kremlin remains intent on retaining control of the southern Zaporizhzhia province, the [British Defense Ministry](#) says in its latest assessment of the war.

The reason is Russia wants to establish a "land bridge" from its Rostov region to Crimea, the Ukrainian peninsula it illegally annexed in 2014. That land connector would be threatened if Ukraine recaptured Zaporizhzhia.

On the other hand, "Ukrainian success in Luhansk (province) would further undermine Russia's professed war aim of 'liberating' the Donbas," the ministry said. "Deciding which of these threats to prioritize countering is likely one of the central dilemmas for Russian operational planners."

Contributing: The Associated Press

This article originally appeared on USA TODAY: [Ukraine updates: Russian offensive begins, tide turns in Bakhmut](#)

Moldovan Airspace Closed On Reports Of Drone Breach As Russia Rejects Coup Accusations; second significant airspace breach in under a week, after a Russian cruise missile fired from

the Black Sea briefly briefly entered Moldovan air space days ago

President Maia Sandu [had described](#) an elaborate plan by Russian intelligence to destabilize and collapse the government using color revolution-style tactics. She claimed that Kremlin agents are preparing to flood the country with Russian, Belarusian and Serbian agents provocateurs to steer protests and unrest in order to **"change the legitimate government to an illegal government controlled by the Russian Federation."**

U.S. 'deeply troubled' by Israel's legalizing 9 outposts

"We are deeply troubled by Israel's announcement that it will reportedly advance thousands of settlements and begin a process to retroactively legalize nine outposts in the West Bank that were previously illegal under Israeli law," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said in a press briefing on Monday. "Like previous administrations, we strongly oppose these unilateral measures, which exacerbate tensions, harm trusts between the parties, and undermine the prospects for a negotiated two-state solution."

House Committee Planning Taiwan Trip to 'Infuriate' Beijing

The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Monday [said that the US had sent 10 "high-altitude" balloons over its airspace](#) since last year while refuting allegations that the Chinese balloon the US shot down was a surveillance device.

"US balloons have often entered other countries' airspace illegally. Since last year, US high-altitude balloons have flown over Chinese airspace over ten times without authorization from China. The US needs to reflect on its own behavior and change course rather than attacking others and stoking confrontation," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a press conference.

Wang didn't specify whether China thought the balloons were used for surveillance purposes. In response to his comments, [the White House said](#) any claims that the US has sent "surveillance balloons" into China were false.

Ai, tech: feb14 This drone can soar through the skies and swim like a fish underwater

A research team at the [Chinese University in Hong Kong](#) recently demonstrated that, despite giving off an aura of extraterrestrial technology to onlookers, it's not out-of-this-world for objects to traverse between water and air in the blink of an eye.

This remarkable capability was highlighted by videos from various military branches showing [Unidentified Aerial Phenomena](#) performing such a feat.

History, tech: Oldest workshop discovered in Ethiopia, dating back 1.2 million years feb14

In Melka Kunture, modern-day Ethiopia, a new study ascertained the oldest workshop in human history, dating back to 1,2 million years ago. As stated by the researchers, this workshop includes the production of obsidian bifaces.

The study also suggests that this finding raises the possibility that our ancestors' production of stone objects may have started more than half a million years earlier than the earliest evidence.

"The fact that there were no other types of tools at Simbiro, with the exception of these high-quality obsidian tools, leads us to believe that this was a specialized production site," says Mussi, excavation director since 2011. "In other words, this is a production workshop, the oldest ever known, since those known so far date back no more than 300,000 years".

"These findings highlight a fundamental stage in the development of human intelligence: innovation, which is linked to creativity," said Margherita Mussi. "It is the first example of the development of 'parallel thinking,' which means bringing together knowledge and technical skills previously acquired in other productions."

<https://interestingengineering.com/culture/oldest-workshop-dates-back-12-million-years>

The study was published in [Nature Ecology&Evolution](#) on January 19.

A team cracked the Mary, Queen of Scots' hidden message letters

Ai, tech: feb14 Relativity Space's 3D-printed rocket could finally launch this month actual, actually freezing of bodies for the hope to one day come back to life. Always heard about it, now here's ACTUAL evidence of it happening, and on mass.....WOW

This form of scientific donation has become so popular in most European countries that there are waiting lists at universities willing to accept bodies due to donations—and they're charging fees now too!

Tomorrow Biostasis already has around ten people preserved for training purposes alone. Hundred of others are waiting to be selected with the hope that they can come back to life after they are dead.

Some people just want to get their [brains preserved](#). In case their future selves prefer a 3-D printed body or nobody at all.

The goal of German Doctors

[Tech. Eu](#) said that the "standby ambulance" of the business has already been active, with co-founder Emil Kendziorra trying to establish Europe's first cryogenics company.

As soon as someone passes away, Tomorrow Biostasis reacts right away to keep their body and/or brain in a condition of stasis.

<https://interestingengineering.com/science/german-doctors-aims-bring-back-dead>

read later, ai, tech, stats: Will We Ever Cheat Death and Become Immortal With Mind Uploading?

<https://interestingengineering.com/science/cheating-death-and-becoming-immortal-with-mind-uploading>

History, ai, tech: feb14 AI helps decipher 2,000-year-old scroll on life after Alexander the Great

AI has entered a scroll.

Thanks to [machine learning](#), a 2,000-year-old damaged scroll on the dynasties that succeeded Alexander the Great could finally be deciphered after it was destroyed alongside Pompeii when [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted in 79 AD.

"It's probably a lost work," Richard Janko, the Gerald F. Else distinguished university professor of classical studies at the University of Michigan, said during a presentation at the joint annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America and the Society for Classical Studies, held in New Orleans last month, [Live Science](#) reported.

Stats, ai, tech: feb14 AI image generator hit by \$1.8 trillion lawsuit from Getty Images

The stock image agency claims that over 12 million copyrighted images—along with their descriptions and metadata— were used to train Stable Diffusion, an AI image creator.

"Getty Images Claims Stable Diffusion Has Stolen 12 Million Copyrighted Images. Demands \$150,000 For Each Image," AI expert Barsee [wrote](#) on Twitter.

"That's nearly \$2 trillion, btw, which only makes copyright look ridiculous in the end," he said.

A Twitter user, while replying in the thread of Tweets, said, "AI took their whole business. Instead of innovating, they [Getty Images] are getting salty."

Meanwhile, Images created by Stable Diffusion can replicate the easily recognized Getty watermark, providing damning proof that Stability AI did browse the Getty library.

Impact on how AI image creators

Getty Images has demanded up to \$150,000 for each infringement image in addition to the removal of the infringing images and damages for copyright law violations.

Ai, tech: feb14 How CGI has taken animals out of the scene in Hollywood

tech, ai, stats: feb14 Here's how to create stunning digital AI art in seconds

I recently took up a short course named [Put the Art in Artificial Intelligence](#) by Machine Learning Scientist **Jesper Dramsch** and was seriously impressed with AI and its capabilities in terms of how it enables users to create spectacular pieces of art based merely on a set of text-based instructions. Here's an honest review of why this should be a go-to course for newbies or aspiring artists to develop their skills.

Put the art in artificial intelligence: What's it all about?

Imagine ordering someone to create a piece of art or an image and getting it created within the blink of an eye. That would be amazing, right?

That's precisely what Jesper teaches in this course – a basic step-by-step guide on how you can create stunning digital art pieces by using tools that have a very easy learning curve. If you're a beginner, you'll take to these tools as a fish does to water.

The tool we're talking about here is known as Stable Diffusion AI – a platform that creates your artwork based on your prompts. Across the **11 lessons** in this course that span a total of **1 hour and 19 minutes**, you'll learn how to write better prompts to create spectacular art pieces.

Through every stage, you're bound to learn something new. However, apart from the priceless knowledge imparted in the course by Jesper, I liked his focus on three things.

1. Ethics of generative art and AI

As you move forward, you'll come across a lesson where Jesper stresses an important issue about being ethical in the use of AI. The power of AI to create anything out of the smallest figment of human imagination also means it can be used for nefarious purposes. And Jesper means it well when he quotes the famous line from the movie "Spiderman," when he says 'With great power comes great responsibility.'

Jesper sheds light on why it's important to study or take a peek at the models used to train these AI tools. He also mentions specific examples and certain biases in data that may not produce an impartial result. That makes it crucial to study the license, limitations, and biases of any AI tool to make sure we don't create harmful content that's meant to demean any person or community and spread misinformation.

2. What to learn next?

Coming second-to-last in this course, Jesper discusses the exceptional possibilities of AI and how it can be used to repair damaged images or create extensions of artwork about what it could possibly look like. In a nutshell, you can use Stable Diffusion AI to get inspiration when you're creating any artwork for a client.

3. Resource

Jesper also provides a really helpful LookBook that's a brief, abridged version of the video course in text form. It consists of

example images created by AI using different prompt styles, so if you ever need to revise the course, this LookBook will save you time having to go through the lessons all over again.

What have people said about this course?

How will this course help you?

Jesper talks about this point as well. Here's a brief on how taking this course will help you in the long run.

- Generating inspiration for physical art pieces
- Generating prototypes for clients
- Breaking the creative block by creating diverse ideas
- Trying a fusion of different art styles to come up with something new
- Get faster iterations of ideas to speed up the decision-making process

War, Russia, government: feb14 Massive lithium reserves found in the Himalayan region of Kashmir

Study reveals common ingredient linked to higher risk of heart disease



India's push for cleaner transport

As part of its efforts to cut carbon emissions, India is looking to increase the market share of electric vehicles to 30 percent by the end of this decade. However, the country has been dependent on Australia and Argentina for its lithium needs and has been exploring ways to improve the mineral supply.

Photographer reveals dark side of lithium extraction in South America

Approximately 2.2 million litres of water is needed to produce one ton of lithium.

Approximately 2.2 million litres of water is needed to produce one ton of lithium.

The production of lithium through evaporation ponds uses a lot of water - around 21 million litres per day. Approximately 2.2 million litres of water is needed to produce one ton of lithium.

"The extraction of lithium has caused water-related conflicts with different communities, such as the community of Toconao in the north of Chile," the FoE report specifies.

Stats, tech, government: feb14 Recycling facilities can now recover nearly all of the cobalt and nickel and over 80% of the lithium from

used batteries and manufacturing scrap left over from battery production

Stats, tech, ai: feb14 Lockheed Martin's new jet was flown by AI for 17 hours in worlds first

In December 2021, during a test flight from California's Edwards Air Force Base, a special Lockheed Martin F-16 fighter jet trainer [called the VISTA X-62A](#) became the first tactical aircraft to be controlled by AI.

Amazon hosts a first in Quantum computing:

Aquila, a neutral-atom Quantum computer

Amazon has been working on ChatGPT-like AI for a long time, says Amazon CEO

the boutique beats the large clunky organization in cutting-edge. That's marketing theory if I remember correctly. Amazon, as an organization, doesn't is too focused on maintenance now. Lacks the vigor of the new boutique

"Most large, deeply technical companies like ours, have been working on these very large, generative AI models themselves for a long time," Amazon CEO Andy Jassy said.

Microsoft released [Bing](#) with ChatGPT-like powers, and the search engine finally looks impressive. In the latest news, Microsoft has started rolling out new Bing early access to waitlisted users. As for Google, Bard failed to show promise after a [goof-up](#) during the demo. Employees expressed their disappointment with the ["early launch"](#) of Bard and said that the announcement was handled in a "botched" manner.

Is Amazon falling behind in the generative AI race?

Now even though AI and machine learning technology can be found across Amazon Web Services and Amazon's operations (Amazon has voice assistant, Alexa, and code recommendation generator, CodeWhisperer), the company's supporters are concerned that it is trailing behind in the "generative" AI race, *F7* reported.

"Microsoft is clearly in the lead and has won a lot of mindshare here," Matt McIlwain, managing director of Madrona Venture Group, a major, early investor that has worked closely with Amazon over two decades., told *F7*.

'ChatGPT lacks Alexa's personality

[Insider](#) reported in January that Amazon employees had used internal Slack channels to enquire about how they should use ChatGPT at work. A company lawyer has asked workers not to share any confidential company data with ChatGPT as responses could look similar to Amazon's internal data. The lawyer told Insider that Amazon is developing similar technology to ChatGPT.

Dave Limp, Amazon's senior vice president for devices and services, told [The Times](#) that "competition is generally healthy" and dismissed ChatGPT stating that it lacked Alexa's personality, memory, and knowledge of current events.

Stats, government, tech: feb14 **demand for lithium could increase 20 times by 2050.**

Lithium has to scale twenty times by 2050 as automakers face generational challenge

The world will need more than twenty times the amount of lithium than was mined last year to meet demand by mid-century, according to new data from Benchmark Mineral Intelligence, driven by growth in energy storage and electric vehicles. Annual production of 11.2 million tonnes LCE will be needed by 2050 with energy storage making [...]

Tech, ai, stats: feb14 **New methods that make damaged DNA legible are producing stunning revelations about the deep past.**

And the number of ancient human individuals for whom we now have whole-genome data has [jumped drastically](#), from just five in 2010 to 5,550 in 2020.

By indicating that India's population came from a mix of ancestors, these techniques have undermined the caste system. DNA from a 2,500-year-old battlefield in Sicily has revealed that ancient Greek armies were more diverse than historians depicted.

Old samples can unravel modern health mysteries, too. Last year scientists identified a single mutation that made people 40% likelier to survive the [Black Death](#)—and it's also a risk factor for autoimmune issues like Crohn's disease.

Differences in how cultures believe human remains should be treated will keep creating ethical and logistical questions for scholars seeking to work with ancient DNA. But its revelations are already rewriting history.

Tech, ai: read later: What are genome editing and CRISPR-Cas9?

What are genome editing and CRISPR-Cas9?

Genome editing (also called gene editing) is a group of technologies that give scientists the ability to change an organism's DNA. These technologies allow genetic material to be added, removed, or altered at particular locations in the genome. Several approaches to genome editing have been developed. A well-known one is called CRISPR-Cas9, which is short for clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats and CRISPR-associated protein 9. The CRISPR-Cas9 system has generated a lot of excitement in the scientific community because it is faster, cheaper, more accurate, and more efficient than other genome editing methods.

CRISPR-Cas9 was adapted from a naturally occurring genome editing system that bacteria use as an immune defense. When infected with viruses, bacteria capture small pieces of the viruses' DNA and insert them into their own DNA in a particular pattern to create segments known as CRISPR arrays. The CRISPR arrays allow the bacteria to "remember" the viruses (or closely related ones). If the viruses attack again, the bacteria produce RNA segments from the CRISPR arrays that recognize and attach to specific regions of the viruses' DNA. The bacteria then use Cas9 or a similar enzyme to cut the DNA apart, which disables the virus.

Researchers adapted this immune defense system to edit DNA. They create a small piece of RNA with a short "guide" sequence that attaches (binds) to a specific target sequence in a cell's DNA, much like the RNA segments bacteria produce from the CRISPR array. This guide RNA also attaches to the Cas9 enzyme. When introduced into cells, the guide RNA recognizes the intended DNA sequence, and the Cas9 enzyme cuts the DNA at the targeted location, mirroring the process in bacteria. Although Cas9 is the

enzyme that is used most often, other enzymes (for example Cpf1) can also be used. Once the DNA is cut, researchers use the cell's own DNA repair machinery to add or delete pieces of genetic material, or to make changes to the DNA by replacing an existing segment with a customized DNA sequence.

Genome editing is of great interest in the prevention and treatment of human diseases. Currently, genome editing is used in cells and animal models in research labs to understand diseases. Scientists are still working to determine whether this approach is safe and effective for [use in people](#). It is being explored in research and clinical trials for a wide variety of diseases, including single-gene disorders such as [cystic fibrosis](#), [hemophilia](#), and [sickle cell disease](#). It also holds promise for the treatment and prevention of more [complex diseases](#), such as cancer, heart disease, mental illness, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.

Ethical concerns arise when genome editing, using technologies such as CRISPR-Cas9, is used to alter human genomes. Most of the changes introduced with genome editing are limited to somatic cells, which are cells other than egg and sperm cells (germline cells). These changes are isolated to only certain tissues and are not passed from one generation to the next. However, changes made to genes in egg or sperm cells or to the genes of an embryo could be passed to future generations. Germline cell and embryo genome editing bring up a number of ethical challenges, including whether it would be permissible to use this technology to enhance normal human traits (such as height or intelligence). Based on concerns about ethics and safety, germline cell and embryo genome editing are currently illegal in the United States and many other countries.

Scientific journal articles for further reading

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Russia, sanctions, energy, war: feb14 **Tanker Rates To Haul Gasoline Soar 400% After Russian Sanctions**

Tanker Rates To Haul Gasoline Soar 400% After Russian Sanctions

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, FEB 14, 2023 - 07:55 AM

Clean product tanker rates soared last week after the European Union and G-7 nations targeted Russia's petroleum sales. Restrictions on Russian crude exports began in early December. The sanctions have been a ploy by Western countries to limit Russian crude and crude product exports, though it's definitely not working.

Sanctions have redirected Russian energy flows from Europe to Asia. The rejiggering of supply chains means Russia has to rely more on tankers. According to [Bloomberg](#), this has led to a 400% surge in the daily rates for clean product tankers.

The latest data from the Baltic Exchange in London shows clean product tankers rates have reached \$55,857 per day, surging 58% just last Thursday.

War, Russia, government: feb14 **Two More Trains Derail Across US After Ohio Catastrophe**

About ten days after a train carrying [vinyl chloride derailed and exploded](#), releasing dangerous chemicals into the air and water near the Ohio-Pennsylvania border, two more trains derailed on Monday alone.

Early Monday morning in East Texas, an 18-wheeler collided with a train. The truck was dragged half a mile down the tracks. The 'accident' derailed 21 cars operated by Union Pacific.

When first responders arrived at the scene, the truck driver was dead, according to Splendora Police Department. The police department said the train was carrying hazardous materials though the crash didn't rupture any tanks.

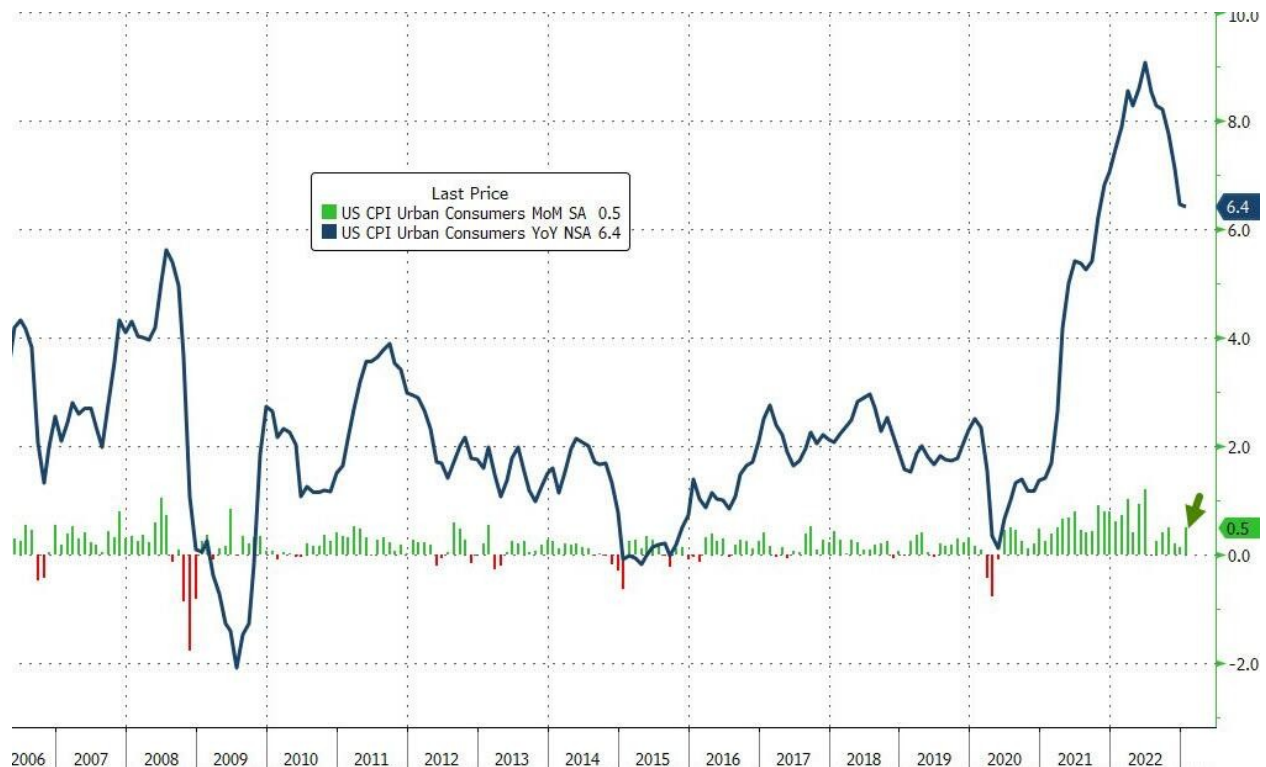
A fourth airborne object which strayed into US airspace on Sunday afternoon over Lake Huron resulted in the Pentagon scrambling a F-16 fighter jet, as these potential balloons have been deemed hazardous to civilian aviation.

But what US defense officials described as an unidentified "octagonal" object wasn't taken down so easily, with the first Sidewinder missile fired from the F-16 reportedly missing its target. Each AIM-9x Sidewinder missile costs the American taxpayers a cool \$400,000.

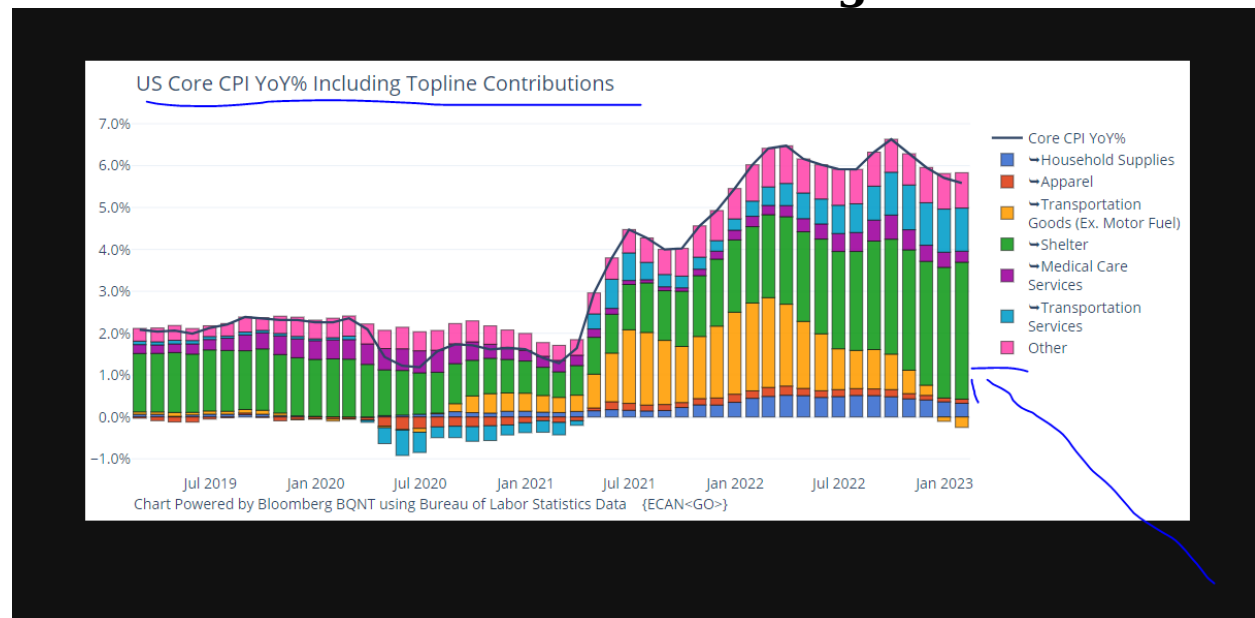
Government, inflation: feb14 The Layoffs Continue: Ford To Cut 3,800 Workers In Europe

.the rise in Americans' cost of living outpaced their income gains for the 22nd month in a row...

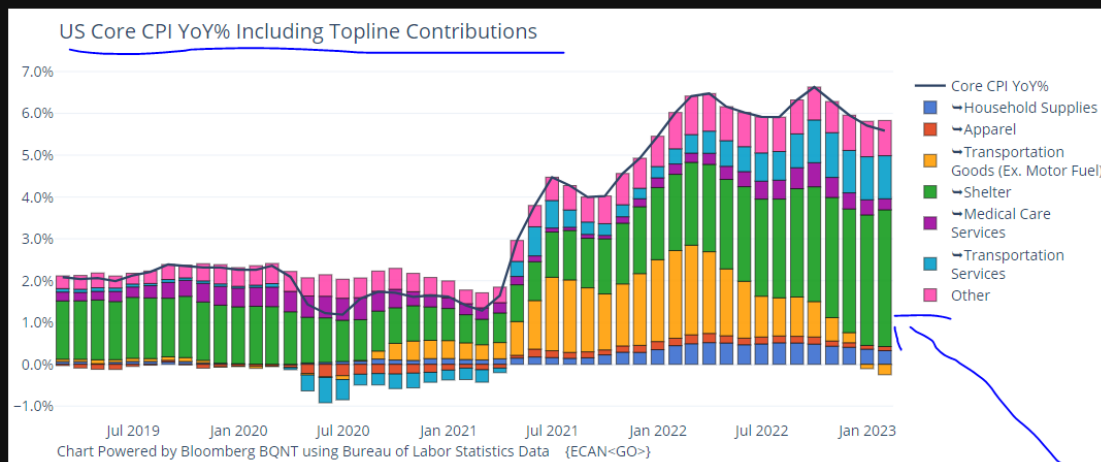
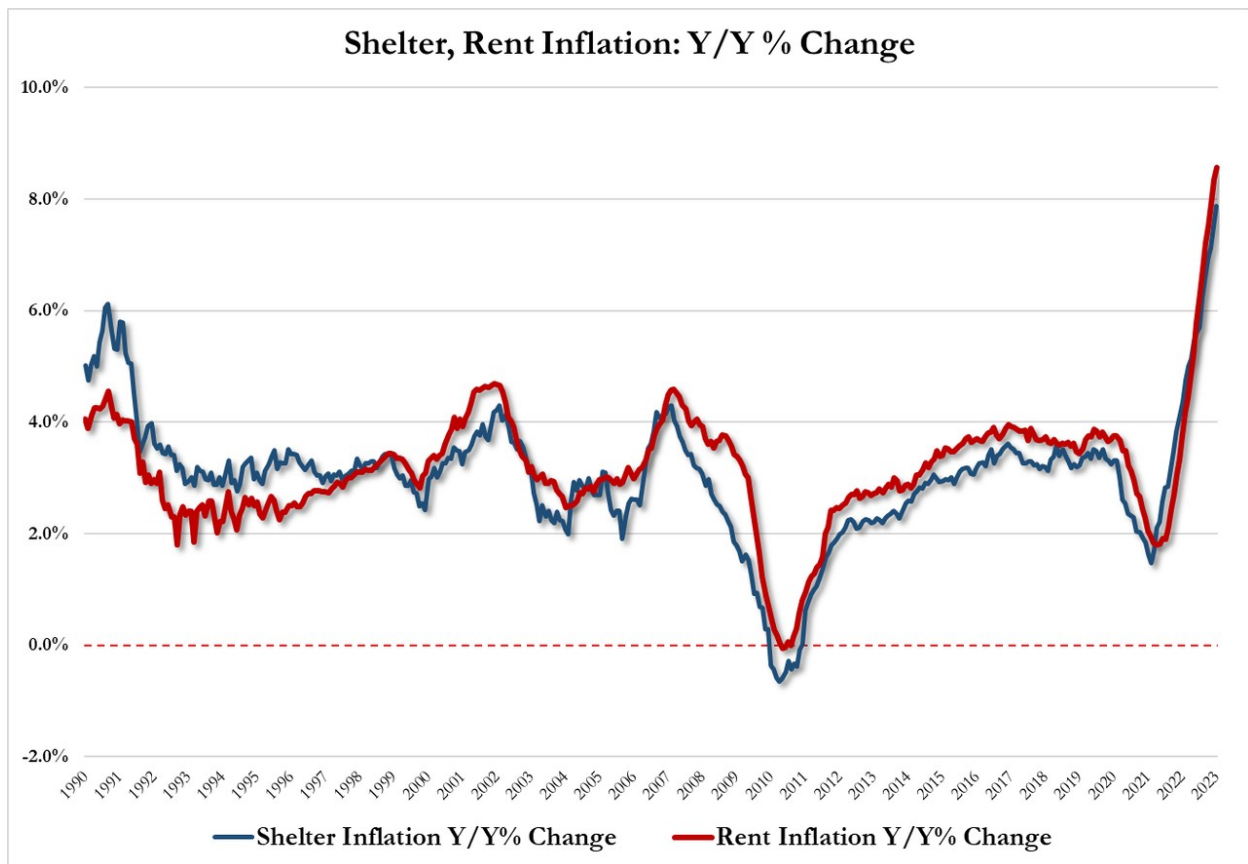
Core CPI Rises 32nd Straight Month, Headline Inflation Hotter Than Expected YoY Driven By Lagging Shelter consensus was for a reacceleration to +0.5% MoM in January and that is what it printed, prompting a hotter than expected +6.4% YoY CPI print



Stats, inflation, journal: feb14 Core CPI was expected to rise 0.4% MoM and printed in line - the 32nd month in a row of rising Core CPI



end of year rent inflation



rise in Americans' cost of living outpaced their income gains for the 22nd month in a row (down 1.5% YoY)...



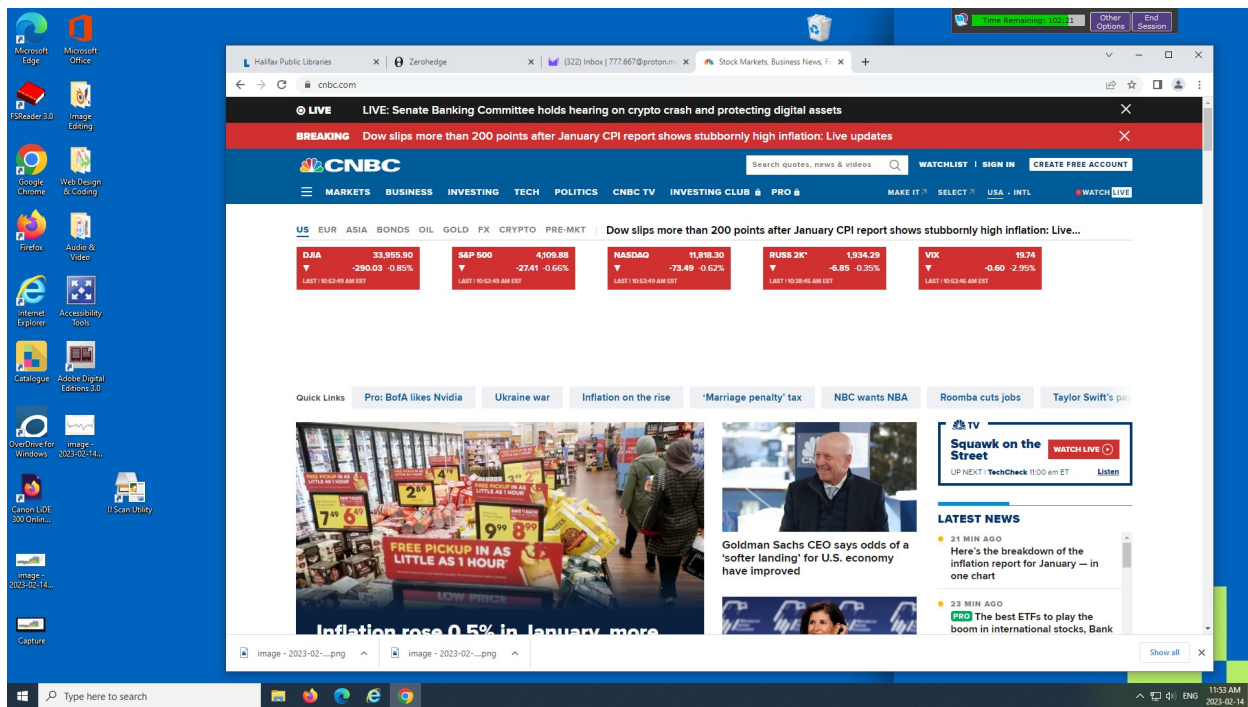
Source: Bloomberg

Just don't forget the economy is "strong as hell".

Services CPI soared to its highest since July 1982 and Goods inflation continues to slow...



Feb14 nice view of the market reaction just by looking at CNBC's front page



100 thousands protestors again, IU guess....protesting netanyuha's literal theocratic 'democracy' and its decidision to allow the country head to elect and dismiss all judges at will , or something. can't remember. just saving the story because it shows that the protests are still occurring, even like more than a mont later..

Israel: 100,000 protest against controversial judicial overhaul

Citizens and MPs gather to denounce plan as ‘the beginning of the end of the State of Israel’

Across the country, businesses closed and an estimated 100,000 people, including schoolchildren, took to the streets, in what [Haaretz](#) said was “set to be one of the largest demonstrations in Israeli history”.

More than 80,000 rallied outside the Knesset in Jerusalem. Protesters then walked through the city, blocking roads.

Protesters blocking roads in Jerusalem are confronted by police, on 13 February 2023
(Oren Ziv/MEE)

“We will shake the legs of this corrupt government,” Kema Bresler, founder of the Black Flags protest group, told the crowd, who chanted: “Democracy or rebellion.”

Anat, a protester in her 20s who went to the protest with her friends, told Middle East Eye: “I have come to keep Israel democratic.”

Demonstrators waved Israeli flags and placards that read "Save Israel democracy" and "The whole world is watching".

Another read: “1933 Germany. 2023 Israel? Biden, you can stop it!”

Dana Foss, holding the sign, told MEE: “If the laws are passed, it will be the beginning of the end of the state of Israel.

“In the end there will be a critical mass [of protesters] and they will realise that they cannot ignore us.”

An Israeli protester holds up a sign comparing the rise of authoritarianism in inter-war Germany to that in Israel, on 13 February, 2023 (Oren Ziv/MEE)

Renana Amir, who came with her two elementary school children, said: “This is mainly for the future of the younger generation.”

The plan would give parliament the power to override Supreme Court decisions through a simple majority vote, and de facto control over court nominees, a role currently held by a mixed panel of politicians, judges and bar association members.

It would also limit the court’s ability to bar legislation that infringes on human and civil rights.

Israel has no constitution, and there is little separation between the executive and legislative branches, as governments nearly always hold a majority in the Knesset. This has historically meant the Supreme Court is the [most effective check on government power](#).

Israelis continue weekend protests against Netanyahu's judicial overhaul plans

[Read More »](#)

Netanyahu and his allies say the reforms are necessary to correct a power imbalance between elected representatives and the nation's top court, but the plans have drawn [fierce opposition](#) from groups including lawyers, and raised concerns among business leaders, widening already deep political divisions in Israeli society.

Israel's Channel 12 news released a poll on Saturday revealing that 62 percent of Israelis want the proposed judicial plans to be either paused or halted altogether. Hundreds of thousands have demonstrated across the country since they were announced.

[US](#) President Joe Biden and [French](#) President Emmanuel Macron have both voiced concern about the overhaul.

Israeli economists have warned the plan has [already damaged](#) the country's finances. Numerous businesses gave staff the day off to protest, even arranging shuttle buses.

Employees from the country's booming tech industry were among the demonstrators.

"Most of the industry is funded from outside the country, and we don't want to live in a place where the brainiest flee abroad," said Lior Ben Arie, who works at Ortra, a conference management company.

"We've heard from companies and colleagues abroad who are really worried about visiting and are afraid of the democratic situation in Israel. We are here to fight for what is left."

Israel has no constitution, and there is little separation between the executive and legislative branches, as governments nearly always hold a

majority in the Knesset. This has historically meant the Supreme Court is the most effective check on government power.

Opposition leader and former premier Yair Lapid, a bitter Netanyahu rival, addressed the crowd in front of the Knesset on Monday.

Lawmakers "pretend they don't hear, pretend they don't care, but they hear and they're afraid", he said.

"We are not here just to pay taxes and send our children to the army. We will not shut ourselves in our houses when they try to turn the State of Israel into a dark dictatorship and silence us," he added.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid at the Knesset protest in Jerusalem on 13 February, 2023 (Oren Ziv/MEE)

"Outwardly they grin sarcastically, saying that [the protests] won't change anything, but inside they tremble," said Lapid, who some have said should not to cooperate with any negotiations or talks with the coalition. "A day will come when each of the men and women who are out here on the street will be able to say to their children: When the day the State of Israel needed me the most, I was there."

Former defence minister Benny Gantz told protesters: "The entire opposition and many more Israeli citizens who voted for the coalition parties are united against the 'targeted assassination' that is being carried out against Israeli democracy."

Another former defence minister and former chief of staff, Moshe Yaalon, said: "We did not fight against enemies from outside to give the country over to criminals from within. One man [Netanyahu]... has taken us all hostage."

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Erdogan, war: feb14 Turkey Won't Allow New Syrian Refugee Influx After Quake: Minister

Turkey Won't Allow New Syrian Refugee Influx After Quake - Minister

By [Reuters](#)

|

Feb. 13, 2023, at 9:04 a.m.

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Turkey Won't Allow New Syrian Refugee Influx After Quake -Minister

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FILE PHOTO: Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu meets with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the State Department in Washington, U.S., January 18, 2023. REUTERS/Leah Millis/Pool/File Photo**REUTERS**

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkey will not allow a new influx of refugees from Syria after last week's devastating earthquake, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Monday.

"Claims that there is a new influx of refugees from Syria to Turkey (after the earthquake) are not true. We will not allow that; it is out of question," Cavusoglu said at a news conference in Ankara.

"All of these border crossings are for humanitarian aid. That does not mean that Syrians are coming to Turkey through these crossings," he said.

"We are facilitating humanitarian aid for Syrians, but we are not allowing a new Syrian refugee influx. These are two separate issues," he said.

Readlater, censorship, stats, government: feb14 article from 1996 about top selling pharmaceutiicals , 26-02-1996 Print

The world's top selling drug in the year 2000 will be Astra Merck's Losec (omeprazole), with sales of \$3.6 billion, says a new report from Datamonitor. By 2000, Losec will have toppled the current top-seller, Glaxo Wellcome's Zantac (ranitidine) into fifth place, with projected sales of \$1.76 billion, says the study, Global Pharmaceutical Forecasts to 2005, which is available through the Marketletter offices.

Second to Losec will be Eli Lilly's depression treatment Prozac (fluoxetine), but with sales of \$2.8 billion it will still be a long way behind, says the study.

Prospects For Market leaders Looking at the prospects for the leading players to the millennium, Datamonitor says Merck & Co is well-placed to retain its strong leadership. It has an interest in five of the 25 forecast top-sellers, and they will earn it \$7 billion. Further into the future, the study believes Merck & Co will be able to sustain this level of performance to 2005 with three of the world's top five drugs.

Datamonitor believes Pfizer will have the largest share of sales of the 25 top-sellers by 2005, with four expected to produce sales over \$5 billion worldwide. It notes that its forecast for Pfizer conflicts with current industry views on the need for mergers between the leading players, but it says the Pfizer model demonstrates that well-managed companies, focused on achieving organic growth driven by R&D, will be able not only to survive but also to prosper.

Glaxo Wellcome will also be well-positioned at the turn of the century, despite the expiry of patents on Zantac. It will be less dependent on any single product, and will have four of the world's top-selling 25 drugs by 2005, says the study.

Eli Lilly's strong dependence on Prozac will reveal its vulnerability as sales of the drug begin to decline, says Datamonitor. While the Humulin insulin products will continue strongly, Lilly's new antiosteoporosis drug raloxifene (a selective estrogen receptor modulator) must be successful if the strong position forecast for the company in 2000 is to continue to 2005.

World's Top 25 Drugs: Forecasts To 2000 Brand Generic Indication
Company 2000 Sales (\$m)

**Censorship, government: feb14 Microsoft
Suspends Relationship With Group Blacklisting
Conservative News**

**Peru's Boluarte Vows to Crush 'Narcoterrorism'
After Deadly Police Ambush**

**Canada's Trudeau Sees 'Some Sort of Pattern' in
Downed Aerial Objects**

**Algeria Arrests Activist's Family After Her
Escape to France**

Stats, middle east, readlater: feb14 **read later:
2019-2021 Iraqi protests**

**War, middle east, readlater: feb14 Popular
Mobilization Forces: still don't understand, but
looks important**

According to Faleh A. Jabar and Renad Mansour for the [Carnegie Middle East Center](#), Prime Minister [Nouri al-Maliki](#) used these forces to combat the emergence of [ISIL](#) and maintain his influence in predominantly [Sunni](#) areas.^[39]

The People's Mobilization Forces (PMF) were formed by the Iraqi government on 15 June 2014 after top Iraqi Shia cleric [Ali al-Sistani](#)'s non-sectarian^[39] [fatwa](#) on "Sufficiency Jihad" on 13 June.^[u] The fatwa called for defending Iraqi cities, particularly [Baghdad](#), and to participate in the counter-offensive against [ISIL](#), following the [Fall of Mosul](#) on 10 June

2014.^{[1][58]} The forces brought together a number of Shia militias, most of which receive direct support from [Iran](#), along with a small number of Sunni tribesmen by uniting existing militias under the "People's Mobilization Committee" of the [Iraqi Ministry of Interior](#) in June 2014.^[59] The forces would fall under the umbrella of the state's security services and within the legal frameworks and practices of the Ministry of Interior. On 19 December 2016, Iraqi President [Fuad Masum](#) approved a law passed by parliament in November that incorporated PMU in the country's armed forces. The pro-[Assad](#) website [Al-Madsar News](#) reports that, with this incorporation, the PMU are now subject to the supreme commander of the national armed forces and will no longer be affiliated to any political or social group.^{[60][better source needed]} However, many of these irregulars have continued to operate independently of the Iraqi state.^[61]

On 21 March 2017, the PMU announced the launch of a [special forces](#) course, in order to create a Special Forces Division. The training program covered a variety of missions with direction from the [Iraqi Special Operations Forces](#).^{[62][better source needed]} On December 11, 2017, the PMU began to be entirely consolidated under the [Iraqi Armed Forces](#), following a call by Ayatollah [Ali al-Sistani](#) to integrate.^[43] However, as late as May 2018, this integration had yet to take place, and PMF members remained without the same wages and privileges as soldiers in the regular Iraqi Armed Forces.^[63]

According to some sources, the Popular Mobilization Forces have made a fundamental difference on the battlefield, as they have undermined the superiority of ISIL at the level of [guerrilla warfare](#), as well as at the level of the [psychological operations](#).^[64]

Feb14 The Philippines has filed nearly 200 diplomatic protests against China's aggressive actions in the disputed waters in 2022 alone.

Erdogan, war: feb14 they're only now getting there: First Hezbollah Aid Convoy Reaches Syria's Latakia

"The affected people need all the help they can get, and Syria has always stood by Lebanon throughout its ordeals ... [We will] stand beside them in this disastrous challenge," Safieddine said.

"The West revealed the culture to which it belongs and confirmed that it perpetuates false slogans in defending human rights," he added, referring to the US sanction policy,

which since the quake hit, has made it highly difficult for aid to reach Syria.

On 10 February, the US announced a temporary, 180-day sanctions-waiver for the Caesar Act, in an apparent admission that Washington's sanctions do indeed hinder humanitarian efforts, which it attempted to deny many times. This decision followed a storm of criticism, as well as warnings by UN officials against the 'politicization' of earthquake relief efforts.

Last week, the Iraqi resistance faction, the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), announced that the departure of their engineering team to the affected areas of Syria in order to aid relief efforts. Following the quake, the Iraqi government was among the first countries to send aid to Syria in disregard of western sanctions, along with Algeria, Iran, and the UAE.

As rescue teams in Syria and Turkiye continue to remove bodies from the rubble, the death toll from last week's disaster has topped 36,000 people, and is expected to continue rising.

**journal, stats, government, middle east: feb14
britain influencing gas pricing for an entire
country through the imf's international 'loan
programme'.**

In order to implement a major prior condition set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for striking a staff-level agreement with Pakistan, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet Monday approved up to 124% hike in the tariff of gas across the board for six months — January to June.

Under this initiative, debt relief was extended through the suspension of principal and interest payments. So far, 37 debt rescheduling agreements with 15 creditor countries have been signed.

Reforms in the energy sector and controlling the circular debt remained on top of the agenda during the talks held with the IMF mission that concluded 10-day parleys in Islamabad last Thursday.

Islam, stats: islam and the monkey: feb14 a specific example, current

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's police arrested at least 50 suspects in the kidnapping and lynching of a man already detained on charges of blasphemy, officials said Monday.

A mob of hundreds of enraged Muslims descended on the police station in the Nankana district of eastern Punjab province on Saturday. Members of the mob had been alerted that a man identified only as Waris desecrated a copy of Islam's holy book, the Quran.

According to the district police chief, Babar Sarfraz Alpa, the mob had accused Waris of pasting images of himself, his wife and a knife on pages of the book, displaying and throwing them in the streets.

Charges of blasphemy carry the death penalty under Pakistani law.

Officials said the mob stormed the Warburton police station on Saturday. Some used a wooden ladder to climb a wall and open the main gate, allowing the mob to enter. By the time police reinforcement could reach the scene to save the prisoner's life, the mob had already lynched him and were about to burn his body. Police dispersed the crowd.

The slain man, Waris, was arrested in 2019 on a blasphemy charge and was in prison until mid-2022.

Police say Waris again desecrated the Quran, and that some witnesses grabbed and beat him. Police took Waris into custody. But the mob later attacked the police station and killed him, saying they were punishing him for insulting the Quran.

Stats, energy, sanctions, war, government, germany: feb14 think tank: Europe Has Spent 792 Billion Euros to Shield Citizens From Energy Crisis

European countries have forked out over £700bn (€792bn) to shield businesses and households from soaring gas prices since the start of the energy crisis, according to the [latest research from Bruegel](#).

The think tank has calculated that since September 2021, the EU has now earmarked or spent €681bn in energy crisis spending, while the UK has allocated €103bn and Norway just over €8bn.

Germany was by far the biggest spender, splashing out nearly €270bn since September 2021.

The figures mark a sharp increase since the last report three months ago when Bruegel calculated a €706bn total, as countries grappled with a challenging winter with Russia cutting off gas supplies to Europe last year. Russia reduced flows significantly from the Nord Stream 1 pipeline and halted flows into multiple countries.

Bruegel urged governments to shift towards more targeted support, prioritising lower income levels as countries start running out of fiscal space to maintain such broad funding.

Funding has chiefly focused on non-targeted measures such as VAT cuts on petrol or retail power price caps.

However, the think-tank argued that dynamic needed to change over the coming months.

War: feb14 nato chief to step down in October after 9 years in office.

Feb14 Russian Arms Supplies to India Worth \$13 Billion in Past Five Years

Feb14 Switzerland said Friday it had blocked Spain from sending Swiss-made anti-aircraft guns to Ukraine, in line with its strict military neutrality.

Feb14 Russia Claims US Army Training ISIS, al-Qaeda Fighters in Syria to Deploy to Russia, Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) told TASS on Monday.

US recruiting IS jihadists for terrorist attacks in Russia and CIS, says intel agency

The SVR stressed that the US was planning to send terrorists in small groups

Sixty such terrorists with combat experience in the Middle East were selected this year in January.

According to the SVR, they are undergoing a fast-track training course at the US base in Syria's Al-Tanf, where they are being taught how to make and use improvised explosive devices, as well as subversive methods. "Particular emphasis is paid to planning attacks on heavily guarded facilities, including foreign diplomatic missions," the Foreign Intelligence Service said.

The SVR stressed that the US was planning to send terrorists in small groups. "In the near future, there are plans to deploy militants in small groups to the territory of Russia and the CIS

countries. They will be tasked with plotting and carrying out terrorist attacks against diplomats, civil servants, law enforcement agents and servicemen," the statement said. According to the US plot, they will conduct this scheme in cooperation with clandestine cells of international terrorist groups, such as Hizb ut-Tahrir, Jamaat Ansarullah and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (outlawed in Russia).

The SVR also reported that special attention was paid to the involvement of natives of the Russian North Caucasus and Central Asia. All this demonstrates the complete loss of any moral principles in the US security services. "Obsessed with the insane idea of 'exsanguinating' Russia, Washington's experts consider it acceptable to use terrorists directly for their own dirty purposes. Such actions put Washington on a par with major international terrorist groups," the SVR concluded.

Feb14 Dutch F-35s Intercept Three Russian Military Aircraft Near Poland - Netherlands' Defence Ministry

Dutch F-35s Intercept Three Russian Military Aircraft Near Poland - Netherlands' Defence Ministry

By [Reuters](#)

Feb. 13, 2023, at 6:57 p.m.

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FILE PHOTO: A Dutch soldier stands guard as a Royal Netherlands Air Force F-35 takes off at Graf Ignatievo airbase, Bulgaria, April 14, 2022. REUTERS/Stoyan Nenov**REUTERS**

(Reuters) - Two Dutch F-35 fighters intercepted a formation of three Russian military aircraft near Poland and escorted them out, the Netherlands' defence ministry said in a statement late on Monday.

"The then unknown aircraft approached the Polish NATO area of responsibility from Kaliningrad," according to Reuters' translation of the ministry's statement.

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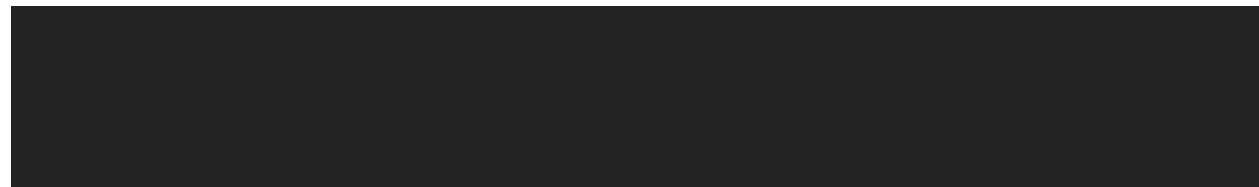
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Adidas drops Kanye West over offensive behavior

Kaliningrad is a Russian Baltic coast enclave located between NATO and European Union members Poland and Lithuania.

"After identification, it turned out to be three aircraft: a Russian IL-20M Coot-A that was escorted by two Su-27 Flankers. The Dutch F-35s escorted the formation from a distance and handed over the escort to NATO partners."

The IL-20M Coot-A is NATO's reporting name for the Russian Ilyushin IL-20M reconnaissance aircraft while the Su-27 Flankers are NATO's reporting name for the Sukhoi Su-28 fighter aircraft.

Political Cartoons on World Leaders

[View All 201 Images](#)

Russia's defence ministry did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for a comment.

The Netherlands' defence ministry said that eight Dutch F-35s are stationed in Poland for February and March.

(This story has been refiled to clarify the interception happened near Poland)

(Reporting by Lidia Kelly in Melbourne; Editing by Matthew Lewis)

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Tags: [Poland](#), [Russia](#), [European Union](#), [Europe](#), [Netherlands](#)

Stats, Africa: feb13

At the request of the Federal Government of Somalia and in support of Somali National Army engagements against al-Shabaab, U.S. Africa Command conducted a collective self-defense strike Feb 10, 2023.

The strike occurred in a remote area approximately 45 km southwest of Hobyo, Somalia, and about 472 km northeast of Mogadishu.

The initial assessment is the strike killed 12 al-Shabaab fighters.

Given the remote location of the operation, the command assesses that no civilians were injured or killed.

Rooting out extremism requires intervention beyond traditional military means.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has publicly stated that economic reform, social and political reconciliation, and religious tolerance are key pillars of his strategy to mobilize society against international terrorist. Military actions are only a part of the Federal Government of Somalia's efforts to comprehensively address their security challenges.

The U.S. is one of several countries providing humanitarian aid, stabilization efforts, economic development, and military assistance to the Federal Government of Somalia in their ongoing campaign.

U.S. Africa Command is the defense arm of the U.S. whole-of-government approach with African partners -- diplomacy, development and defense. This three-pronged, or "3D" approach brings together multiple agencies from within the U.S. government to increase cooperation and support for partner-led, U.S.-enabled solutions to shared security challenges, including violent extremism or terrorism.

"U.S. Africa Command provides support to the Somali government to address terrorist threats, but we are only part of the U.S. efforts there," said Gen. Michael Langley, AFRICOM commander. "Our Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development colleagues have programs that help build resilience through education and training; develop agricultural diversity; improve

markets and trade; and strengthen democracy and good governance.”

Somalia remains central to stability and security in all of East Africa. U.S. Africa Command's forces train, advise, and assist partner forces to help give them the tools they need to defeat al-Shabaab, the largest and most deadly al-Qaeda network in the world.

U.S. Africa Command will continue to assess the results of this operation and will provide additional information as appropriate. Specific details about the units involved and assets used will not be released in order to ensure operations security.

The Federal Government of Somalia and U.S. Africa Command will continue to take great measures to prevent civilian casualties. Protecting civilians remains a vital part of the command's operations to promote greater security for all Africans. To view the U.S. Africa Command Quarterly Civilian Casualty reports, visit: <https://www.africom.mil/what-we-do/airstrikes/civilian-casualty-report>.

Feb13 36 000 dead now..

Thousands dead as powerful earthquakes shake Turkey, Syria

TURKEY

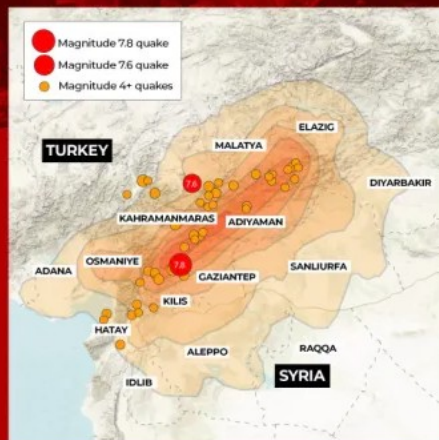
At least

31,643 killed

SYRIA

At least

4,614 killed



Authorities say the death toll is likely to rise.



Sources: Turkish government, Syrian government, Syrian opposition
February 13, 2023 | 11:00 GMT



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(Al Jazeera)

Political aftershocks in Turkey

By [RYAN HEATH](#)

02/13/2023 09:43 AM EST

[Follow Ryan on Twitter](#) | Send
tips and insights
to rheath@politico.com

While our attention is focused on
unidentified flying objects, there

are a bunch of very identifiable political campaigns, geopolitical tensions, and backlash to government taking shape on-the-ground.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations **Nikki Haley** will launch her presidential campaign Wednesday.

Munich Security Conference this morning published its [annual report](#) ahead of its gathering, which starts Friday.

THE HELL IN TURKEY

Is [a death toll of 36,000 from the 7.8 magnitude earthquake](#) in southern Turkey and northern Syria, the end of either the death count or the political effects? Almost certainly not.

How can it be, given that there is [100ft deep crevice](#) and a [rescue operation that has often lacked essentials](#) from water and body bags to cranes? Some families told AP [it took rescue teams four days to arrive to their buildings](#) — virtually extinguishing opportunities to find survivors trapped in the rubble.

Turkey's President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** appears more focused on a centralized cover-up than an effective on-the-ground response. That centralization starts with an emergency decree that will last in Turkey's southern provinces until just two weeks before the country's May election.

Ritual shaming of building contractors has begun — Turkish Vice President **Fuat Oktay** said 131 suspects had so far been identified as responsible for the collapse of some of the thousands of buildings. But that's cold comfort for survivors— since many have lost their entire families, despite that [information about the flawed buildings was well-known](#) before the quake.

REALITY CHECK: Turkey-based Canadian journalist **Nick Ashdown** [puts the situation into perspective](#) for those not familiar with Turkish politics: “Imagine not only 10 cities half gone and the government floundering. Imagine not only that the government was begged to do something that could have prevented 95 percent of the devastation and didn't, but also

that they are now gaslighting a desperate public.”

By the numbers: In addition to tens of thousand dead, the Turkish economy is now going to take a massive hit. Already struggling with the world’s highest inflation rate — at over 50 percent — there’s [now going to be a 10 percent hit to GDP](#), sending the country into a deep recession, Bloomberg reported.

YOU KNOW IT’S TOTALLY MESSED UP WHEN:

- [The government misuses statements by earthquake scientists](#), to cover for their lack of preventative action
- [The main local airport was built directly on the faultline](#), wrecking the runway, and hindering relief efforts
- [The government seizes an aid truck from an opposition party](#), the pro-Kurdish Peoples’ Democratic Party
- [Ukraine has sent emergency crews to help](#), despite being neck deep in its own hot war
- [U.N. Aid chief Martin Griffiths has admitted the U.N. failed Syrians](#), after taking 5 days to turn up

An Austrian army spokesperson said early on Saturday, via a written statement, that clashes between unidentified groups in the Hatay province had left dozens of personnel from the Austrian Forces Disaster Relief Unit seeking shelter in a base camp with other international organizations. German agencies also briefly suspended their work.

Search for earthquake survivors enters final hours in Turkey

By Mehmet Guzel, Suzan Fraser and Sarah El Deeb | AP

February 13, 2023 at 4:58 p.m. EST

Comment

0

Gift Article

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ADIYAMAN, Turkey — The desperate search for earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria entered its final hours Monday as rescuers using sniffer dogs and thermal cameras surveyed pulverized apartment blocks for any sign of life a week after [the disaster](#).
Are you on Telegram? Subscribe to our channel for the latest updates on Russia's war in Ukraine.

Teams in southern Turkey's Hatay province cheered and clapped when a 13-year-old boy identified only by his first name, Kaan, was pulled from the rubble. In Gaziantep province, rescue workers, including coal miners who secured tunnels with wooden supports, found a woman alive in the wreckage of a five-story building. Stories of such rescues have flooded the airwaves in recent days. But tens of thousands of dead have been found during the same period, and experts say the window for rescues has nearly closed, given the length of time that has passed, the fact that temperatures have fallen to minus 6 degrees Celsius (21 degrees Fahrenheit) and the severity of the building collapses.

Erdogan, war, middle east: feb13 The quake's financial damage in Turkey alone was estimated

at \$84.1 billion, according to the Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation, washinton post

Grief and desperation in Idlib as earthquake compounds crises

North-west Syrian province was a place of last resort for people fleeing war – then came Covid, cholera and new catastrophe

Tents dot the hillside overlooking former homes in Al-Haram, Syria. Photograph: Alessio

Idlib had been a place of last resort for thousands displaced by more than a decade of war. Across the province, some pitched their tents among ancient Byzantine ruins in sheer desperation for somewhere to live. Elsewhere, tent cities stretched for miles in the shadow of looming limestone mountains.

The Syrian rebel leader Ahmed Hussein al-Shara, better known by the nom de guerre Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, the de facto ruler of Idlib, [told the Guardian](#) that the province was crying out for international aid, after accusations that he had played a role in blocking aid to parts of rebel-held Syria. “We are a new government with a lot on our shoulders and the scale of this crisis is bigger than the capabilities we have,” he said.

The Salvation Government, a political organisation that nominally rules the rebel-held north-west, launched a website to record the number of people displaced and missing, in an effort to respond swiftly. But since the earthquake only 52 trucks carrying food and other aid have entered the region, where at least four-fifths of the estimated 5 million population are classed as in urgent need by the UN.

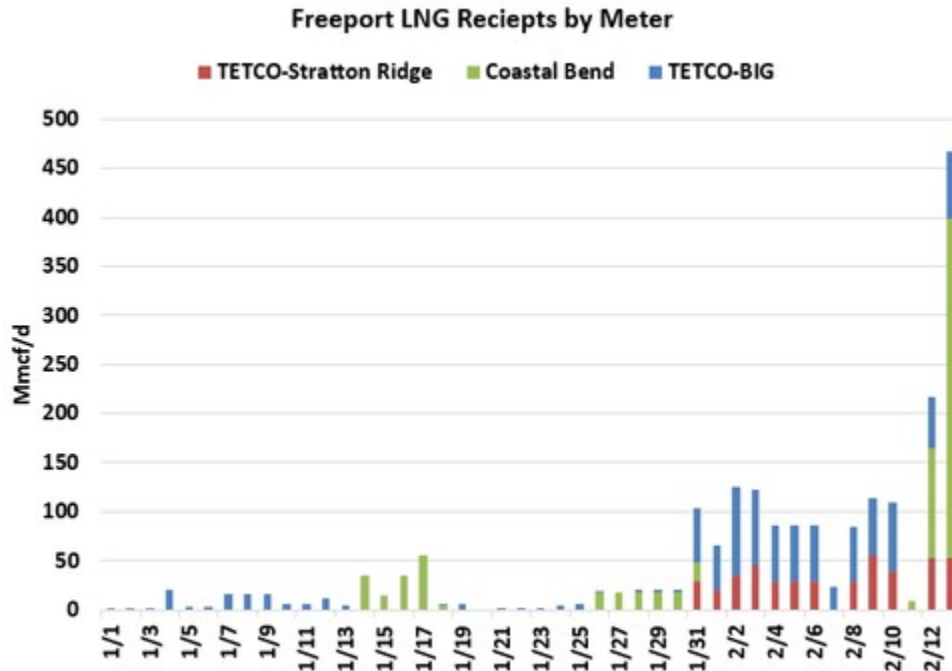
Readlater, war, sanctions, energy, Erdogan, Russia, government, stats, markets: feb13 NatGas Slides As Mild Weather Trumps Freeport LNG's First Cargo Since June Blast

Natural gas prices fell Monday morning as mild weather for the Lower 48 dents heating demand, and inventories remain plentiful as the winter season winds down. There's still too much production as prices hover around \$2.45 per million British thermal units (MMBtu).

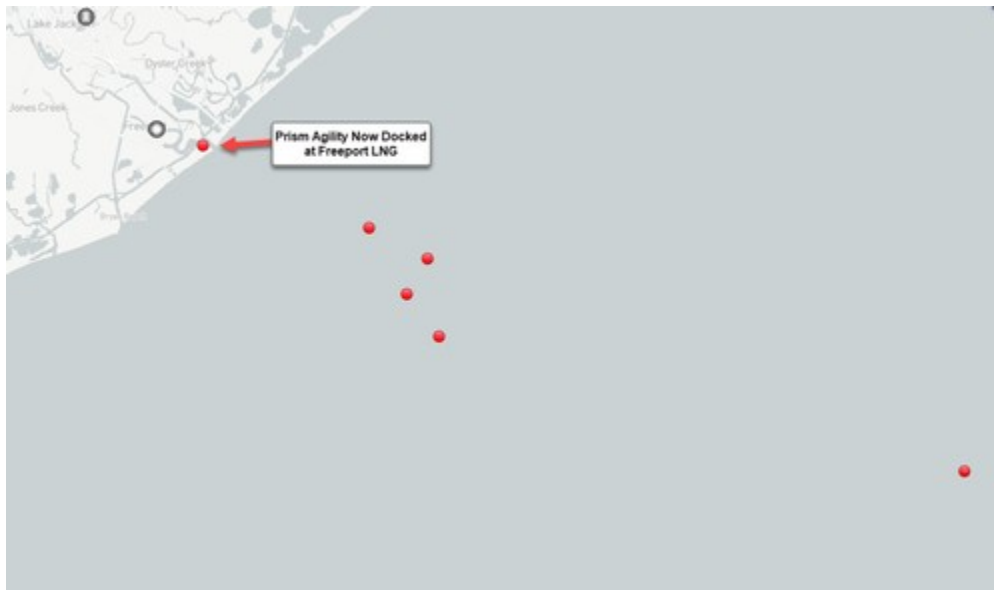


The bearish backdrop of the NatGas market trumped signs of a nearing partial restart at the Freeport liquefied natural gas plant in Texas.

Freeport LNG has shown its first material flows since June 2022, with yesterday's late-cycle nominations settling at 164 Mmcfd and this morning's early flows totaling 398 Mmcfd via TETCO Stratton Ridge and Coastal Bend. If we also include TETCO-BIG meter station, those totals rise to 216 Mmcfd and 467 Mmcfd.



The Kmarin Diamond LNG Tanker arrived at Freeport LNG on February 10 and departed on February 12 with a partially laden hold. After the Kmarin Diamond left, Prism Agility moved in and is now the second tanker to dock at Freeport LNG. There are five more LNG tankers lying in wait off the coastline.



Criterion Research explains what has to happen next for a partial restart to occur.

At Criterion, we currently believe the initial tanker was loaded down with LNG that was already stored onsite after the June 2022 incident. Freeport does not yet have the approval to reinstate service of the liquefaction trains, and the new gas flowing on site seems to be tied to the earlier approval to "commence

commissioning, including cooldown, of the LNG rundown piping system and LNG train 3 (Unit 13)."

Traders will watch Freeport this week to see what news comes from the facility, as a partial restart seems imminent.

totaling agree: International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach on Sunday denied that the organization was on the wrong side of history by helping Russians and Belarusians qualify for the 2024 Paris Summer Games.

World No. 1 Daniil Medvedev, banned from Wimbledon, ends grass season with QF defeat in Mallorca

Daniil Medvedev finished his tennis season on grass after a straight-set loss to Roberto Bautista Agut in the quarterfinals of the Mallorca Championships on Thursday.

The Russian international lost 6-3, 6-2 after entering the match with an 8-2 record on the surface this year, with his losses coming in consecutive finals in Germany and the Netherlands.

Medvedev, the defending champion in Mallorca, had only one break opportunity against the 20th-ranked Bautista Agut, who had advanced without having to play in the last 16 because Nick Kyrgios withdrew with an

abdominal injury. It was the fourth win against a No. 1 player for the Spaniard, with his three previous victories coming against Novak Djokovic. “I had to play very good to beat Daniil,” Bautista Agut said. “He’s the No. 1, the last champion here in Mallorca. He just beat me a few days ago. I played a really complete match.”

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[UPSC Key- February 13, 2023: Know about Appointment to various Constituti...](#)

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[Real returns turn positive, depositors move funds to fixed deposits](#)

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Medvedev, who will not play at Wimbledon because of the ban on Russians over the war in [Ukraine](#), needed to come from behind to get past Aslan Karatsev in the round of 16 on Wednesday. The Russian had also beaten Bautista Agut in two sets in the quarterfinals in Germany last week. Bautista Agut will play in the semifinals against Antoine Bellier, a 303rd-ranked Swiss qualifier who got past Tallon Griekspoor of the Netherlands 5-

7, 7-6 (5), 6-2. Bellier became the lowest-ranked semifinalist since then-No. 335 Juan Manuel Cerundolo triumphed in Cordoba in 2021.

Second-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas had cruised into the quarterfinals but needed three sets against American Marcos Giron to make it to the last four on Thursday. His 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-3 victory came in more than 2½ hours.

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“It was a lot of work today. It was not easy,” Tsitsipas said. “I had to deal with the heat, had to deal with my opponent playing great. It was a big physical effort. I had the fighting spirit.”

The sixth-ranked Greek, who leads the tour with 38 wins this season, will next face Frenchman Benjamin Bonzi, who defeated Germany’s Daniel Altmaier 6-3, 6-4.

Inflation, government, journal: feb13

Nonetheless, current risks are of a close encounter with inflation of the third kind: not the cyclical, transitory, supply-driven kind we can ignore; nor the cyclical, demand-driven kind we easily fought with monetary or fiscal policy; but rather the nasty *structural* mixture of supply *and* demand driven inflation that comes with unstable geopolitics, the weaponization of commodities and supply chains, and a shift back to national security, industrial policy, and protectionism. Which is where UFOs and Top Gun antics come in.

More..

•

The Chairman of the US House Armed Services Committee is pledging to remove all Chinese goods from US defence supply chains, with a major dislocating impact along them. The Economist covers ‘[The history and limits of America’s favourite new economic weapon](#)’: America has ramped up controls on technology trade with China’.

•

[Secret British cross-party talks to try to rebuild ties to the EU](#), particularly in regards to defense, Russia, and China, are surely no coincidence; not as another UK insider says its armed forces are in such a parlous state that ‘[If the UK went into battle today, I doubt we’d survive](#)’.

according to top banker, economic theories or market mental models no longer working today is as hard for people to stomach as 'little green men',

Do we really have *unidentified flying inflation*? No: it's just that comfortable economic theories or market mental models no longer working today is as hard for some to admit as the existence of little green or grey men. T

I'm imagining of of large spreadsheet showing pricing of everything changing due to condition, all in ways that will seem obvious in hindsight, for some random reason. He continues on..

That's despite Russia's actions, the West's responses, balloons being shot down all over, and NordStream 2 being blown up. All of this is inflationary, and structural, on both the supply and the demand side.

Unidentified Flying Inflation

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, FEB 13, 2023 - 11:10 AM

By Michael Every of Rabobank

**War: feb13 February 10, 2023 11:24 AM
ASTRussia announced it will cut oil output by
500,000 barrels a day in retaliation for G7
sanctions**

**War, Russia: feb13 Ukraine Short On Ammo
With Russia Gaining, Despite West's Billions,
Stoltenberg Admits--Much-awaited major
Russian offensive has begun...**

A war of attrition becomes a battle of logistics," while acknowledging that "Yes, we have a challenge. Yes we have a problem . . . but we have a strategy to tackle that."

Stoltenberg

February 10, 2023 11:24 AM AST Russia announced it will cut oil output by 500,000 barrels a day in retaliation for G7 sanctions

War, Russia: Feb 13 100 cars derailed in East Palestine, Ohio near the state's border with Pennsylvania with roughly 5,000 residents. The accident launched fifty of those hundred freight cars from the tracks. contained pressurized vinyl chloride, a highly flammable carcinogenic gas

The chaos began early last week when a train of more than 100 cars derailed in East Palestine, Ohio near the state's border with Pennsylvania with roughly 5,000 residents. The accident launched fifty of those hundred freight cars from the tracks. Twenty of the freight cars on the train were carrying hazardous materials, ten of which were detailed. While the accident had no fatalities, of those ten cars, **five contained pressurized vinyl chloride, a highly flammable carcinogenic gas.**



China, war: feb13 China insists the object was a civilian weather balloon that had been blown off course, but has not said whom it belonged to or

offered other details. The U.S. action “seriously violated international norms and set a pernicious precedent,” ministry spokesperson Tan Kefei said in a statement issued late Thursday.

Beijing said the U.S. “overreacted” by shooting it down. The Foreign Ministry has labeled the action “irresponsible” and calls U.S. claims that it was spying “part of the U.S. side’s information warfare against China.”

The U.S. has flatly contradicted China’s version of events, saying that imagery of the balloon collected by American U-2 spy planes as it crossed the country showed that it was “capable of conducting signals intelligence collection” with multiple antennas and other equipment designed to upload sensitive information and solar panels to power them.

In 1956, Chinese authorities intercepted American spy balloons and displayed remnants at an exhibition in Beijing, accusing the U.S. of violating their airspace.

War: feb13 Russia-Ukraine War 2.0: First Tanks, Then F16s. Where Does This End?

Almost as soon as major [NATO](#) countries, led by the [US](#), promised to supply [Ukraine](#) with battle tanks, the cry went up [warning](#) that tanks alone would be unlikely to turn the war’s tide against [Russia](#).

The subtext – the one western leaders hope their publics will not notice – is that Ukraine is [struggling](#) to hold the line as Russia [builds up](#) its troop numbers and pounds Ukrainian defenses.

A permanent partition of Ukraine into two opposed blocs – one more pro-Russian, the other more pro-NATO – is looking ever more likely.

Ukraine’s president, [Volodymyr Zelensky](#), has not been shy in telling the West what he expects next: [fighter jets](#), especially US-made F16s.

Kyiv is keen to break what western media have termed a [“taboo”](#) by getting NATO aircraft directly involved in the Ukraine war. There is a good reason for

that taboo: the use of such jets would let Ukraine expand the battlefield into Russian skies, and implicate Europe and the US in its offensive.

But why assume the West's taboo on supplying combat jets is really any stronger than its former taboo on sending NATO battle tanks to Ukraine? As one European official observed in a Politico article: "Fighters are completely inconceivable today, but we might have this discussion in two, three weeks."

And sure enough, within days, Zelensky's office said there had been "positive signals" from Poland about supplying Ukraine with F16s. French President Emmanuel Macron also refused to rule out the possibility of contributing combat jets.

US Eases Some Sanctions on Syria for 180 Days

The exemption was announced on Thursday night and came days after a devastating earthquake hit northern Syria and Turkey. As of Sunday, over 33,000 people have been killed in the earthquake. More than 4,500 people died in Syria, and at least 29,605 have been killed in Turkey.

As many as 5.3 million people in Syria may have been left homeless by the earthquake

Dhanapala said the UNHCR has been "rushing aid" to the badly affected parts of Syria, but "it's been very, very difficult".

"There are 6.8 million people already internally displaced in the country. And this was before the earthquake."

Meanwhile, a second UN aid convoy of 14 trucks has crossed into rebel-held areas of Syria – after an initial six vehicles went in on Thursday.

"The full scale of the devastation in Syria is only beginning to come to light," said Al Jazeera's Kristen Saloomey, reporting from the UN in New York.

Although more aid convoys are getting through the one authorised border point into the hardest-hit areas, our correspondent said critics argue it is too little, too late.

“The majority of [people made homeless from the quake are] in areas the Syrian government doesn’t control, where people had already been uprooted by years of war,” she said.

On Friday the UN also released another \$25m in emergency funding for Syria, bringing the total so far to \$50m, Saloomey said, “but an assessment team is now on the ground and the needs are expected to well exceed that”.

Middle east, china, readlater: Beijing has cemented its footing in the Middle East since the United States pivoted away from the region during the administration of former US president Donald Trump.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3163528/china-and-iran-seek-boost-infrastructure-and-energy-links>

Iranian President to Visit China as Beijing Aims to Mend Ties After Riyadh Summit

Iran also signalled its displeasure over the joint statement with visiting Vice-Premier [Hu Chunhua](#), who led a delegation to Tehran one week after the summit. Hu said China firmly supported Iranian efforts to defend sovereignty and territorial integrity and was ready to work with [Iran](#) to promote bilateral cooperation.

On the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Uzbekistan in September, Xi told Raisi that China viewed its relations with Iran from a "strategic and long-term perspective" and was ready to increase communication and coordination with Iran.

In January last year, Beijing and Tehran [announced plans](#) to boost infrastructure and energy links as a landmark 25-year cooperation agreement came into force.

**Middle east, war, sanctions, government: feb13
Egyptian Companies Forced to 'Do Illegal Things to Stay in Business'**

A lack of foreign currency and tough banking requirements to finance imports is forcing many Egyptian manufacturers to engage in smuggling and illegal trade activity to stay afloat, manufacturers and analysts told Middle East Eye. With bogus export practices seemingly widespread, [Egypt](#)'s official trade figures may also be inflated.

For Egyptian businesses dependent on importing raw materials and machinery to manufacture goods it has been a turbulent past year.

The currency has devalued three times against the US dollar since March, losing half its value, while inflation has surged, reaching 22 percent in December.

"Due to inflation and the depreciation, our buying power is over 50 percent less than the start of last year," Gamal*, a Cairo-based garment and textile manufacturer, told Middle East Eye, using a pseudonym.

"It is difficult and expensive to import raw materials and close to impossible to import machinery, even if you have the money."

'A lot of people are doing this through the black market. There are all kinds of games going on, and everyone knows that'

- Egyptian economy analyst

The skies started to darken for manufacturers last February when [Russia invaded Ukraine](#), which drove up the price of energy, caused delays in the supply chain, and created market uncertainty. Some \$22bn was pulled out of the country's debt market by foreign investors.

Then in March, Cairo [depreciated](#) the Egyptian pound to meet International Monetary Fund (IMF) requirements after Egypt sought a \$3bn loan, its fourth in six years from the lender, to meet its growing debt obligations. The move drove up the cost of importation for businesses, particularly for firms that did not earn 50 percent or more of their earnings in foreign currencies from exports.

In May, domestic regulations imposed an additional burden when the Central Bank of Egypt required businesses to use foreign currency for letters of credit (LC) – a bank-issued document that guarantees payment upon delivery of goods or services – instead of dealing directly with international suppliers.

At the same time, the government increasingly restricted the amounts that foreign currency bureaus were allowed to exchange.

Dollar deposits at banks also started to dry up as account holders transferred their savings into Egyptian pounds to take advantage of local banks offering fixed-term savings certificates with interest rates of over 18 percent, and up to [25 percent](#) as of January.

"A lot of people exchanged US dollar deposits for Egyptian pounds and then bought the certificates, so this has vacuumed foreign currency out of the local banking system," said an Egyptian official off the record.

No choice but illegal

All of this left manufacturers who were more reliant on sales to the domestic market bereft of dollars and unable to acquire raw materials. This has had a major impact on Egypt's garment and textile industry, which employs some 1.5 million people.

"The foreign exchange problem is affecting the market dramatically. A lot of local companies selling domestically are not working at more than 50 percent capacity due to the lack of currency and the difficulty of getting raw materials," [an industry player told](#) trade publication World Textile Information Network in January.

To stay in business, manufacturers have had to resort to roundabout means to get goods and foreign currency.

"If manufacturers want to buy legally, it is impossible to get goods into the country. So buyers go on Facebook pages to find wholesalers selling containers of fabric. There's lots of smuggling of fabric, yarn and other accessories," said Gamal.

More sophisticated techniques are being used to get dollars into company bank accounts, as under government regulations deposits have to be from direct exports.

"If you have say \$100,000 you are unable to deposit in the bank, you need to change the money's status into the proceeds of exports," said Gamal.

To do this, a manufacturer exports a container of low-quality goods to a friend who owns a business in another country, such as Dubai. The Egyptian manufacturer then transfers the desired amount to be repatriated as dollars to the "partner in crime", as Gamal put it, through a black market exchange dealer in Cairo.

"After the shipment and money is sent, you issue an invoice and your partner in crime deposits the money in their account and then makes a transfer to Egypt. You then have the money to pay for imports," said Gamal.

Companies are also genuinely exporting products to proper customers, he said, but over-invoice with the acquiescence of the buyer.

"This requires sending a large sum of money to the customer to cover the price difference," said Gamal. "We have no choice but to do illegal things to stay in business."

All kinds of games

In financial crime circles, such a practice is known as trade-based money laundering (TBML).

The Financial Action Task Force, a Paris-based body that sets international standards to prevent money laundering, [defines TBML](#) "as the process of disguising the proceeds of crime and moving value through the use of trade transactions in an attempt to legitimise their illicit origins. In practice, this can be achieved through the misrepresentation of the price, quantity or quality of imports or exports."

While Egyptian manufacturers are not using TBML to legalise proceeds of crime - the funds are their own - they are nonetheless using ways to get money into the financial system that is illegal under Egyptian law.

"A lot of people are doing this through the black market. There are all kinds of games going on, and everyone knows that," said a Cairo-based political-economy analyst who requested anonymity.

How IMF loans keep Sisi afloat as Egypt sinks deeper into debt

[Read More »](#)

"You can basically pay foreign exchange dealers for whatever you want, but at a higher rate. There is a big financial incentive to do this, and if it is easy to do so through corrupt ways, everyone will do it instead of going out of business."

The financial costs of accessing dollars through such roundabout ways are taking their toll on businesses.

"There is only so much business you can do through these transfers, as it takes a lot of working capital," Gamal said.

"If you have X capital, you have to expand it by 1.5 or 1.8 times to move it out of the country and back in, as you lose on the goods sent, the black market rate to convert Egyptian pounds to dollars, and on the transfer.

"You also have to wait for the goods to be exported, and the transfers to happen."

Gamal said that the only other option that Egyptian businesses have is to get a bank loan, but with interests at around 18-20 percent, "it is not worth it".

"After the last devaluation, prices are crazy," he added, in reference to the pound's depreciation by 13 percent to a historic low of 32.20 to the dollar, from 27.60 at the open of trade, in January.

The elephant in the room

Smuggling and trade misinvoicing are distorting Egypt's real import and export figures, with Gamal estimating that around half of garment and textile businesses, as well as other enterprises, are engaging in such illicit activity.

Egyptians struggle to afford food as Sisi says it's 'not end of the world'

[Read More »](#)

"You have to bear in mind that when the government is telling you in the news that they have increased export numbers by such and such a figure, this is probably due to the bogus exports," he said.

The analyst agreed.

"This does distort trade figures and produces misleading data. And poor data is part of Egypt's economic problems. The government talks up the figures with a big propaganda campaign to make it sound positive, but if you look at the facts and the numbers it is a mess," he said.

"Egypt has been reduced to begging and is completely dependent on Gulf countries and international money (to meet its debt obligations) because of the complete failure of the regime's economic model. No one is allowed to say this. It is the elephant in the room."

The foreign currency crunch may ease after [close to \\$1bn](#) flowed into Egypt the day after the January depreciation, while the government has also started clearing [import backlogs at ports](#).

But such inflows "are nowhere near enough," said the analyst.

"Many companies are going out of business, and there is a big difference between the reality on the street versus what you see (on Egyptian) TV. There is still a flourishing black market, which shows ministers are lying and that we've not bottomed out. The problem remains a dollar shortage."

War: feb13 China Spots Mystery Object Over Waters Near Northern Port City
Germany Offers Temporary Visas for Turkish, Syrian Quake Victims
HTS Militants Block Aid Coming From Damascus-Held Territory
Wagner Owner Says War in Ukraine Could Drag on for Years

**Moldovan Govt Quits Amid Economic Turmoil,
Tension With Russia
Nearly One Million French March as Pension
Protests Continue
Barcelona Cuts Ties With Twin City Tel Aviv Over
Israeli 'Apartheid'
Disputed Spratly Islands Now Home to
Supermarkets for Chinese Soldiers
Four City Inspectors Slain at Mexico's Playa Del
Carmen Resort
US Top Envoy Calls for 'Dialogue' in Rare Call
With Nicaragua FM
Seven Police Officers Killed in Cocaine Hotspot
of Central Peru
Niger Says at Least 10 Soldiers Killed in
Insurgent Ambush
Morocco Recalls Ambassador to France as
Tensions Grow
Sudan Military Finishes Review of Russian Red
Sea Base Deal
Doctor Says 57 Killed in Week of Fighting in
Somaliland City**

**War: feb13 US Military Recovery Of Unidentified
Object Downed Over Alaska Faces Severe
Conditions; "Recovery operations continue today
near Deadhorse, Alaska," U.S. Northern
Command said in a statement to news outlets
Saturday. "We have no further details at this
time about the object, including its capabilities,
purpose, or origin."**

War: feb13 'Octagonal' Object Shot Down Over Lake Huron; fourth object neutralized by the US military in a little over a week.

Update (1659ET):

- LATEST OBJECT SHOT DOWN BY U.S. WAS FIRST DETECTED OVER MONTANA ON SATURDAY - OFFICIAL
- U.S. DID NOT ASSESS LATEST OBJECT TO BE MILITARY THREAT TO ANYTHING ON THE GROUND -OFFICIAL
- SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL SAYS OBJECT SHOT DOWN WAS OCTAGONAL STRUCTURE, BUT NO DISCERNIBLE PAYLOAD

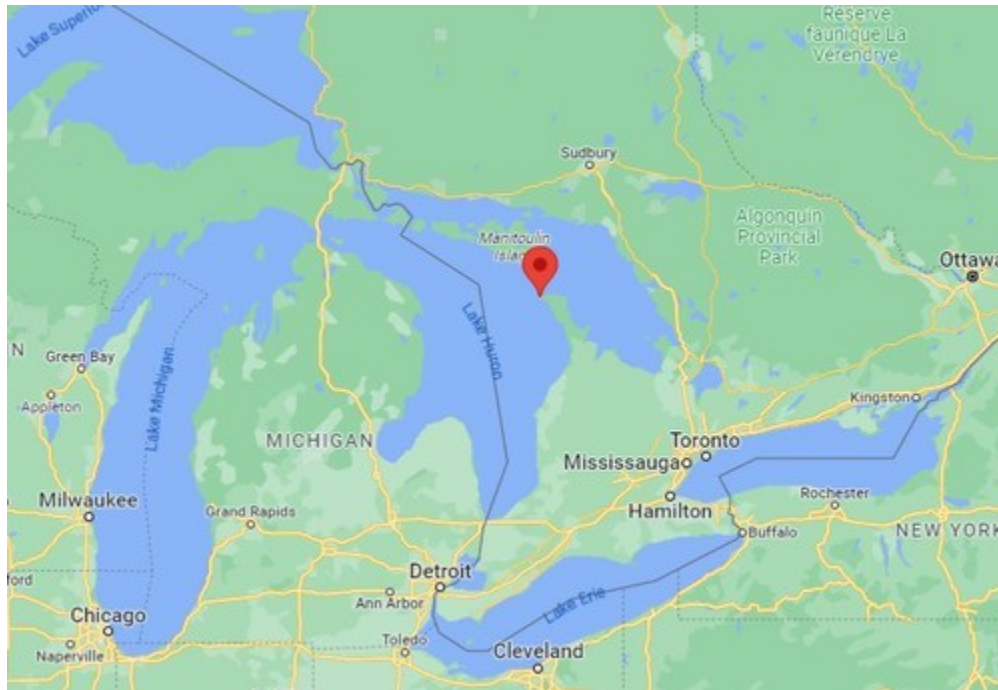
The Pentagon is expected to give a press conference at 5pm ET regarding the downed object.

Update (1548ET): The US military has 'decommissioned' another 'object' over Lake Huron, according to Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI), who has been in contact with the Defense Department regarding operations across the Great Lakes region on Sunday.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL zerohedge.com/political/taa-briefly-shuts-down-air-space-over-lake-michigan-department-defense-activities. The page features a sidebar with various market-related links like 'DOLLAR COLLAPSE', 'DR. HOUSING BUBBLE', and 'FINANCIAL REVOLUTIONIST'. The main content area displays a tweet from Rep. Jack Bergman (@RepJackBergman) dated 4:28 PM - Feb 12, 2023. The tweet states: 'I've been in contact with DOD regarding operations across the Great Lakes region today. The US military has decommissioned another "object" over Lake Huron. I appreciate the decisive action by our fighter pilots. The American people deserve far more answers than we have.' Below the tweet, a text block reads: 'According to Michigan Congresswoman Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D), the object was downed by pilots from the US Air Force and the National Guard. It was flying at 20,000 ft, and was described as "octagon shaped." This is now the fourth object neutralized by the US military in a little over a week.' A map of the Great Lakes region is shown with a red pin indicating the location over Lake Huron. On the right side of the browser, there is a sidebar with a 'UPGRADE TO PREMIUM' button and 'CONTACT INFORMATION' and 'SUGGESTED READING' links. At the bottom right, there is a small video player showing a 3D model of a city with a 'Play now' button.

According to Michigan Congresswoman Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D), the object was downed by pilots from the US Air Force and the National Guard. It was flying at 20,000 ft, and was described as "octagon shaped."

This is now the **fourth object neutralized by the US military in a little over a week.**



Authored by Jack Phillips via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) restricted airspace over a portion of Lake Michigan on Sunday to “support Department of Defense activities” that temporarily closed down the area for commercial and civilian air traffic, which was lifted a short while later.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) [confirmed](#) later that both it and the FAA “implemented a temporary flight restriction airspace over Lake Michigan at approximately 12 p.m. EST on Feb. 12, 2023.” That was done “to ensure the safety of air traffic in the area during NORAD operations,” it said, noting that the restriction has since been lifted.

“The FAA briefly closed some airspace over Lake Michigan to support Department of Defense activities,” an FAA spokesperson told The Epoch Times on Sunday, without elaborating further. **“The airspace has been reopened.”**

The FAA notice, which banned civilian air traffic from the area, was done for national defense reasons, [according](#) to a map monitoring FAA notices,

the [AFP](#) news agency, Reuters, and [Fox News](#). As of Sunday at around 1:15 p.m. ET, the FAA flight restriction appeared to have been lifted, [according](#) to the map.

There were no public comments from the Department of Defense as of Sunday afternoon.

The FAA has provided few details about why it set up the flight restriction, which encompassed a square area that encompassed a portion of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the northwestern part of the Lower Peninsula, and parts of Wisconsin.

"Pilots who do not adhere to the following [procedure] may be intercepted, detained and interviewed by law enforcement or security personnel," the FAA also said Sunday about the Lake Michigan restriction, adding that pilots who enter could face deadly force, according to Fox News.

A number of large U.S. cities are located along Lake Michigan, including Chicago; Milwaukee; Gary, Indiana; and Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Government: feb13

Since the end of 2018, the headcount at the investment bank has jumped 34% to more than 49,000. Now the firing cycle is underway. ; Goldman fired 3,200 employees, or about 6.5% of its headcount last month.

Goldman Sachs CEO Wishes He Fired Workers Earlier



"As the environment was growing more complicated in Q2 of last year, every bone in my body believed we should be much more aggressive in slowing hiring and reducing headcount."

Stats, energy readlater: Mapping the world's oil and gas pipelines Every day the world consumes some 100 million barrels of oil and 60 million equivalent barrels of natural gas.

[aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/16/mapping-world-oil-gas-pipelines-interactive](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/16/mapping-world-oil-gas-pipelines-interactive)

war, sanctions, russia, government, stats: incredible infographic collective, Russia and Ukraine were part of the 15 Soviet republics that made up the Soviet Union. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine declared independence on August 24. The map below shows when each of these countries declared independence.

UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS

Conflict at a glance

After months of tensions, on **February 24**, Russian forces launched a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine. **Kyiv has declared martial law**, saying Ukraine will defend itself.



- **March 2021**
Russian troops begin amassing along the Ukraine border
- **December 2021**
An estimated 100,000 Russian soldiers are concentrated along the Ukraine border
- **January 2022**
 - Russia, NATO and the OSCE hold talks
 - The US and Russia meet in Geneva to de-escalate tensions in Ukraine but differences remain unresolved
 - NATO puts troops on standby
- **February 2022**
 - Ukraine and Russia conduct military drills
 - Putin orders Russian forces to Ukraine rebel regions
 - Western powers call for more sanctions on Russia
 - Russia launches full-scale invasion of Ukraine



Source: News agencies, © Mapbox, © OpenStreetMap

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(Al Jazeera)

UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS

USSR republics

Russia and Ukraine were part of the **15 Soviet republics** that made up the **USSR**.



Source: Al Jazeera

(Al Jazeera)



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3 Political leadership

UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS

How big are Ukraine and Russia?

Ukraine and Russia are the **two largest countries in Europe**.



UKRAINE

Area: **603,550km² (233,031sq miles)**
45th largest in the world

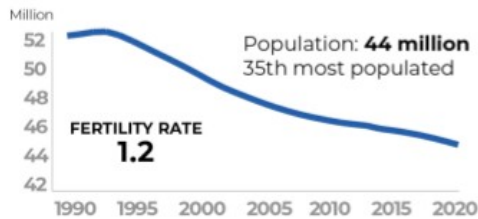


RUSSIA

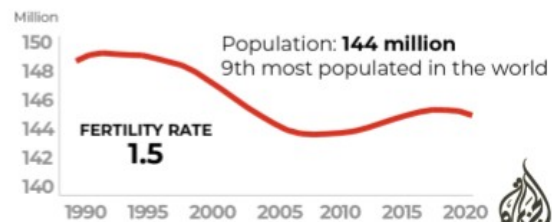
Area: **17,098,250km² (6,601,671sq miles)**
Largest in the world



Both **countries' populations have declined** since the 1990s with fertility rates among the **lowest in the world**.



Source: World Bank | 2020



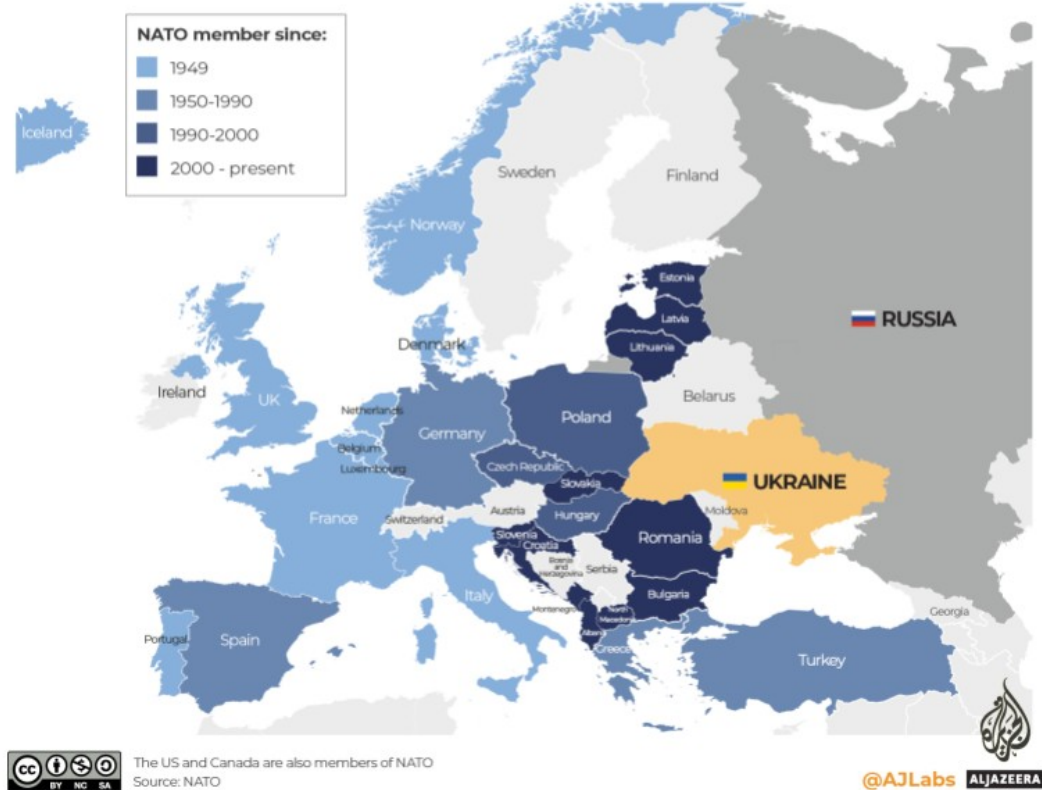
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Read more about NATO history and expansion [here](#).

NATO

NATO in Europe

NATO was **founded in 1949** by 12 nations. It has since **grown to 30 members**. **Russia opposes Ukraine ever joining the alliance** and has accused it of undermining security in the region with its waves of expansion.



War, Erdogan, middle east: feb12 At least 11 people have died following an attack in central Syria, which has been attributed to the Islamic State group.

black sea border crossings totaled by country since onset of ukraine war

Where are people fleeing to?

The UN says there have been more than **18.3 million** border crossings out of Ukraine since Russia invaded the country on February 24.

Where are people fleeing to?

The UN says there have been more than **18.3 million** border crossings out of Ukraine since Russia invaded the country on February 24.



, aljazeera

War, Erdogan: feb12 Syrian conflict, which was triggered by the suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations, has claimed around 500,000 lives and displaced around half the country's pre-war population.

War, Erdogan: feb12 33 000 dead, and the insanity created by organized old style, latin religions of the levant, roman, european continent, exemplified even today among high ranking figures in society.

Turkey-Syria earthquake: Controversial Israeli rabbi calls disaster 'divine justice'

Shmuel Eliyahu claimed God was punishing countries affected by disaster because of alleged mistreatment of the Jewish people



Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu speaks in 2019 (Wikicommons)


By

[MEE staff](#)

Published date: 12 February 2023 10:35 UTC | **Last update:** 4 hours 57 mins ago

607 Shares





A controversial [Israeli](#) rabbi has sparked outrage after claiming the devastating [earthquake](#) that struck [Turkey](#) and [Syria](#) on Monday was "divine justice".

Shmuel Eliyahu, who serves as the chief Rabbi of Safed in northern Israel and is a member of the Chief Rabbinate Council, claimed that God was punishing countries affected by the disaster because of their alleged mistreatment of the Jewish people.

"God is judging all the nations around us who wanted to invade our land and throw us into the sea," Eliyahu wrote in an op-ed [published](#) in the Olam Katan newspaper on Friday.

At least 28,000 people were killed in Monday's devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake, with as many as 18m people directly affected in southern Turkey and northern Syria.

Syria earthquake: Survivors in northwest region cling to hope as aid finally arrives

[Read More »](#)

In his column, Eliyahu claimed that Syria had "abused its Jewish residents for hundreds of years, invaded Israel three times, shot for

years at the farmers who lived at the foot of the Golan Heights, abused captives and hanged [Israeli spy] Eli Cohen."

He also took aim at [Lebanon](#), which was rocked by the quake and is facing a debilitating financial crisis, writing: "There is no doubt that the country, which was once the 'Switzerland of the Middle East' has become hell on earth, and such things do not happen by chance."

As for Turkey, which served as the epicentre of the quake, he wrote: "We don't know what the Heaven's accounts are with Turkey, which slandered us in every possible arena, but if God reveals that he is going to make judgements on our enemies, we know that everything that happens is to clean the world and make it better."

Eliyahu, who is the the father of right-wing parliamentarian and Israel's minister of heritage, Amihai Ben-Eliyahu, has repeatedly courted controversy over his anti-Palestinian and Arab remarks, and has been indicted for inciting racism.

In 2008, he called on the government to carry out "state-sanctioned revenge" against Arabs in order to restore what he described as Israel's deterrence in the wake of an attack at a Jewish school in Jerusalem.

And in 2019, he told teenagers suspected of murdering a Palestinian woman in the West Bank that they shouldn't fear prison as that's where the road to political power begins, prompting several rights groups to call for disciplinary action and criminal charges to be filed against him.

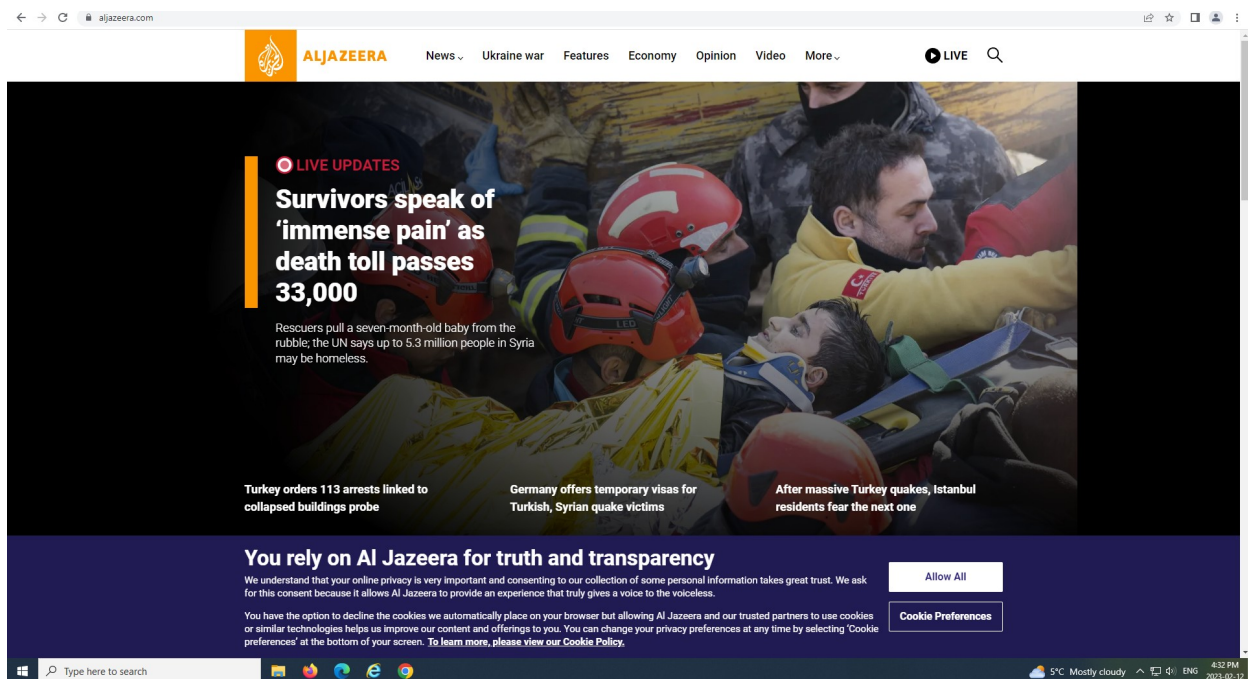
Since the devastating earthquake, dozens of countries from across the world have dispatched aid and rescues team to Turkey, including Israel.

Rocky relationship

Relations between Turkey and Israel worsened in 2011, when Ankara expelled Israel's ambassador following a UN report into Israel's 2010 raid on the Mavi Marmara aid ship to Gaza, during which nine Turkish citizens were killed.

The rift was healed in 2016 when full diplomatic relations were restored and both countries traded ambassadors.

Late last year, Israel's President Isaac Herzog met Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Turkish capital Ankara, marking the first visit by an Israeli head of state to the country since 2008.



The screenshot shows the Al Jazeera website interface. The main headline is "Survivors speak of 'immense pain' as death toll passes 33,000" with a "LIVE UPDATES" tag. Below the headline, a sub-headline reads: "Rescuers pull a seven-month-old baby from the rubble; the UN says up to 5.3 million people in Syria may be homeless." The background image shows rescue workers in red helmets and yellow jackets working on a pile of rubble. Below the main article, there are three smaller headlines: "Turkey orders 113 arrests linked to collapsed buildings probe", "Germany offers temporary visas for Turkish, Syrian quake victims", and "After massive Turkey quakes, Istanbul residents fear the next one". At the bottom, there is a privacy notice: "You rely on Al Jazeera for truth and transparency" followed by a consent message and buttons for "Allow All" and "Cookie Preferences". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 4:32 PM on 2023-02-12.

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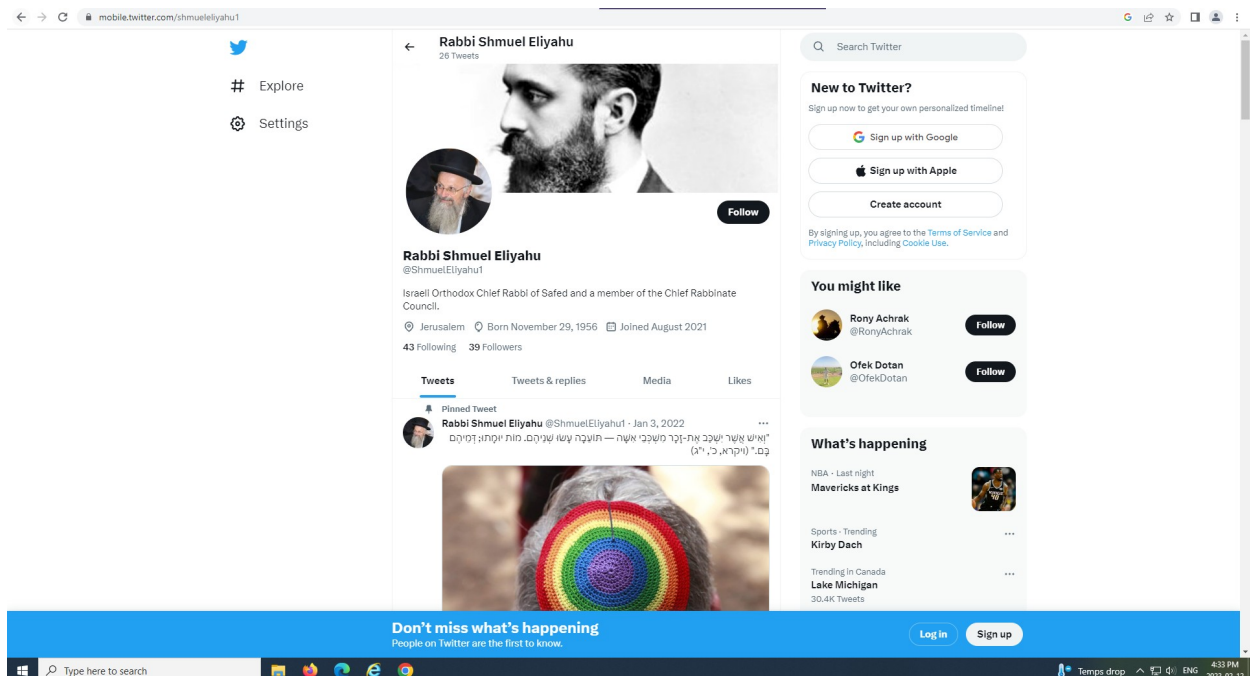
LIVE UPDATES
Survivors speak of 'immense pain' as death toll passes 33,000
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Turkey orders 113 arrests linked to collapsed buildings probe
Germany offers temporary visas for Turkish, Syrian quake victims
After massive Turkey quakes, Istanbul residents fear the next one

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5°C Mostly cloudy 4:32 PM 2023-02-12



US nixes visa of Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu, who's been accused of racism - report

Safed chief rabbi, a leading national-religious figure, blames 'anti-Zionists' in the Reform movement for decision to cancel his travel document

By [TOI STAFF](#) 31 May 2022, 9:14 am

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Chief Rabbi of Safed Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu speaks at the 'Besheva' group, on February 7, 2022. (Olivier Fitoussi/Flash90)

The US embassy recently told the chief rabbi of Safed, Shmuel Eliyahu, a prominent figure in Israel's national-religious movement, that his visa to visit the US has been revoked.

The visa was rescinded before its expiration date, according to an Israel Hayom report on Monday.

The embassy declined to comment to the newspaper about the development, while Eliyahu blamed his opponents in the Reform movement.

Eliyahu, the son of the late Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu who served as Sephardic chief rabbi from 1983 to 1993, has generated criticism in the past few years for a variety of statements and rulings on Jewish law, including one that forbade the rental or sale of Jewish-owned property in the northern city of Safed to Arabs.

The rabbi, who has placed a focus on developing ties with US Jews, has also criticized the Reform movement, the LGBT community, and women serving in IDF combat units.

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A statement on behalf of Eliyahu said the rabbi was not given any reason for the cancellation of his visa, which he had held for many years.

“Our inquiries show that this is an action of anti-Zionists, such as the Reform movement, entities that frequently try to infringe on freedom of expression and silence rabbis,” the statement said.

“After failing to silence Rabbi Eliyahu using legal action, they are now trying to silence the rabbi using a variety of petty methods.”

“There is no reason for worry — they will not succeed,” the statement added.

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In 2015, after then-education minister Naftali Bennett visited a Jewish school in the US affiliated with the Conservative movement, Eliyahu told Army Radio that Reform and Conservative Jews were causing a “spiritual Holocaust” of Judaism and that to give them any legitimacy is “a disaster.”

He has also in the past urged protests against the Women of the Wall, a group campaigning for egalitarian prayer rights at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

In September 2020, the High Court of Justice [ordered](#) disciplinary action against Eliyahu for making a series of offensive comments and for taking “explicit” political stances forbidden to him due to his status as a government employee.

The court ruling came in response to a petition filed by several rights groups in 2016 against Eliyahu, citing over a hundred separate statements.

At the time of the ruling, he was one of several prominent right-wing rabbis to call for the acquittal of a Jewish Israeli convicted of murdering three members of a Palestinian family in a terror attack.

In 2018, Eliyahu set off tensions with the defense establishment when he said IDF chief Gadi Eisenkot should be dismissed because he allowed [female soldiers](#) to serve in combat units.

Duma arson attack: refers to the firebombing of a Palestinian family home[1] in late July 2015 in the village of Duma, which resulted in the death of three people; planned in a cave called the "Red House" built from a previously existing Palestinian structure, on a site that was then turned into an Israeli outpost called Yishuv HaDaat. According to Rabbis for Human Rights, the state still plans to legalize this same outpost, though it was stolen through threats and violence from its Palestinian owners

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Stats, markets, government, media: keyword: "alien tentacle" [gettyimages.ca](#)



Weird article about geoengineering on mit technology dated dec24. Managed to somehow bypass the paywall with archive.is (fake archive)

technologyreview.com/2022/12/24/1066041/a-startup-says-its-begun-releasing-particles-into-the-atmosphere-in-an-effort-to-tweak-the-climate/

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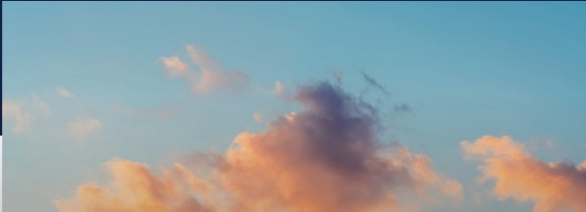
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CLIMATE CHANGE

A startup says it's begun releasing particles into the atmosphere, in an effort to tweak the climate

Make Sunsets is already attempting to earn revenue for geoengineering, a move likely to provoke widespread criticism.

By James TempleDecember 24, 2022



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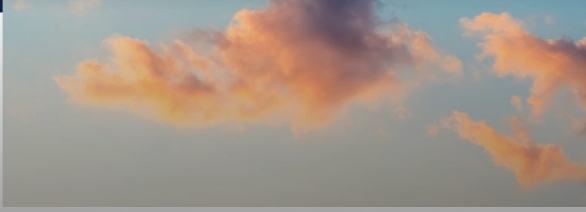
6°C Mostly cloudy 3:14 PM 2/12/2023

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A startup claims it has launched weather balloons that may have released reflective sulfur particles in the stratosphere, potentially crossing a controversial barrier in the field of solar geoengineering.

Geoengineering refers to deliberate efforts to manipulate the climate by reflecting more sunlight back into space, mimicking a natural process that occurs in the aftermath of large volcanic eruptions. In theory, spraying sulfur and similar particles in sufficient quantities could potentially ease global warming.

It's not technically difficult to release such compounds into the stratosphere. But scientists have mostly ~~thwarted~~ ~~not entirely~~ refrained from carrying out even small-scale outdoor experiments. And it's not clear that any have yet injected materials into that specific layer of the atmosphere in the context of geoengineering-related research.

That's in part because it's highly controversial. Little is known about the real-world effect of such deliberate interventions at large scales, but they could have dangerous side effects. The impacts could also be worse in some regions than others, which could provoke geopolitical conflicts.

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[James Templearchive page](#)

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but they could have dangerous side effects. The impacts could also be worse in some regions than others, which could provoke geopolitical conflicts.

Some researchers who have long studied the technology are deeply troubled that the company, Make Sunsets, appears to have moved forward with launches from a site in Mexico without any public engagement or scientific scrutiny. It's already attempting to sell "cooling credits" for future balloon flights that could carry larger payloads.

Several researchers MIT Technology Review spoke with condemned the effort to commercialize geoengineering at this early stage. Some potential investors and customers who have reviewed the company's proposals say that it's not a serious scientific effort or a credible business but more of an attention grab designed to stir up controversy in the field.

Luke Iseman, the cofounder and CEO of Make Sunsets, acknowledges that the effort is part entrepreneurial and part provocation, an act of geoengineering activism.

Related Story

[**The US government is developing a solar geoengineering research plan**](#)

The federal effort could set the stage for more studies into the feasibility, benefits and risks of one of the more controversial means of combating climate change.

He hopes that by moving ahead in the controversial space, the startup will help drive the public debate and push forward a scientific field that has [faced great difficulty](#) carrying out small-scale field experiments amid criticism.

"We joke slash not joke that this is partly a company and partly a cult," he says.

Iseman, previously a director of hardware at Y Combinator, says he expects to be pilloried by both geoengineering critics and researchers in the field for taking such a step, and he recognizes that “making me look like the Bond villain is going to be helpful to certain groups.” But he says climate change is such a grave threat, and the world has moved so slowly to address the underlying problem, that more radical interventions are now required.

“It’s morally wrong, in my opinion, for us not to be doing this,” he says. What’s important is “to do this as quickly and safely as we can.”

Wildly premature

But dedicated experts in the field think such efforts are wildly premature and could have the opposite effect from what Iseman expects.

“The current state of science is not good enough ... to either reject, or to accept, let alone implement” solar geoengineering, wrote Janos Pasztor, executive director of the [Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative](#), in an email. The initiative is calling for oversight of geoengineering and other climate-altering technologies, whether by governments, international accords or scientific bodies. “To go ahead with implementation at this stage is a very bad idea,” he added, comparing it to Chinese scientist He Jiankui’s decision to use CRISPR to [edit the DNA](#) of embryos while the scientific community was still debating the safety and ethics of such a step.

Shuchi Talati, a scholar in residence at American University who is forming a nonprofit focused on governance and justice in solar geoengineering, says Make Sunset’s actions could set back the scientific field, reducing funding, dampening government support for trusted research, and accelerating [calls to restrict](#) studies.

The company’s behavior plays into long-held fears that a “rogue” actor with no particular knowledge of atmospheric science or the implications of the technology could unilaterally choose to geoengineer the climate, without any kind of consensus around whether it’s okay to do so—or what the appropriate global average

temperature should be. That's because it's relatively cheap and technically simple to do, at least in a crude way.

David Victor, a political scientist at the University of California, San Diego, warned of such a scenario more than a [decade ago](#). A "Greenfinger, self-appointed protector of the planet ... could force a lot of geoengineering on his own," he said, invoking the Goldfinger character from a 1964 James Bond movie, best remembered for murdering a woman by painting her gold.

Some observers were quick to draw parallels between Make Sunsets and [a decade-old incident](#) in which an American entrepreneur [reportedly](#) poured a hundred tons of iron sulfate into the ocean, in an effort to spawn a plankton bloom that could aid salmon populations and suck down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Critics say it violated international restrictions on what's known as iron fertilization, which were in part [inspired](#) by a growing number of commercial proposals to sell carbon credits for such work. Some believe it subsequently stunted research efforts in field.

Pasztor and others stressed that Make Sunset's efforts underscore the urgent need to establish broad-based oversight and clear rules for responsible research in geoengineering and help determine whether or under what conditions there should be a social license to move forward with experiments or beyond. As MIT Technology Review [first reported](#), the Biden administration is developing a federal research plan that would guide how scientists proceed with geoengineering studies.

Balloon launches

By Iseman's own description, the first two balloon launches were very rudimentary. He says they occurred in April somewhere in the state of Baja California, months before Make Sunsets was incorporated in October. Iseman says he pumped a few grams of sulfur dioxide into weather balloons and added what he estimated would be the right amount of helium to carry them into the stratosphere.

He expected they would burst under pressure at that altitude and release the particles. But it's not clear whether that happened, where the balloons ended up, or what impact the particles had, because there was no monitoring equipment on board the balloons. Iseman also acknowledges that they did not seek any approvals from government authorities or scientific agencies, in Mexico or elsewhere, before the first two launches.

"This was firmly in science project territory," he says, adding: "Basically, it was to confirm that I could do it."

A 2018 white paper [raised the possibility](#) that an environmental, humanitarian, or other type of group could use this simple balloon approach to carry out a distributed, do-it-yourself geoengineering scheme.

In future work, Make Sunsets hopes to increase the sulfur payloads, add telemetry equipment and other sensors, eventually move to reusable balloons, and publish data following the launches.

The company is already attempting to earn revenue from the cooling effects of future flights. It is offering to sell \$10 "cooling credits" for releasing one gram of particles in the stratosphere—enough, it asserts, to offset the warming effect of one ton of carbon for one year.

"What I want to do is create as much cooling as quickly as I responsibly can, over the rest of my life, frankly," Iseman says, adding later that they will deploy as much sulfur in 2023 as "we can get customers to pay us" for.

The company says it has raised \$750,000 in funding from Boost VC and Pioneer Fund, among others, and that its early investors have also been purchasing cooling credits. The venture firms didn't respond to inquiries from MIT Technology Review before press time.

'A terrible idea'

Talati was highly critical of the company's scientific claims, stressing that no one can credibly sell credits that purport to represent such a specific per gram outcome, given vast uncertainty at this stage of research.

“What they’re claiming to actually accomplish with such a credit is the entirety of what’s uncertain right now about geoengineering,” she says.

Kelly Wanser, executive director of SilverLining, a nonprofit that supports research efforts on climate risks and potential interventions, agreed.

“From a business perspective, reflective cooling effects and risks cannot currently be quantified in any meaningful way, making the offering a speculative form of ‘junk credit’ that is unlikely to have value to climate credit markets,” she wrote in an email.

Talati adds that it’s hypocritical for Make Sunsets to assert they’re acting on humanitarian grounds, while moving ahead without meaningfully engaging with the public, including with those who could be affected by their actions.

“They’re violating the rights of communities to dictate their own future,” she says.

David Keith, one of the world’s leading experts on solar geoengineering, says that the amount of material in question—less than 10 grams of sulfur per flight—doesn’t represent any real environmental danger; a commercial flight can emit about 100 grams per minute, he points out. Keith and his colleagues at Harvard University have worked for years to move forward on a small-scale stratospheric experiment known as SCoPEX, which has been repeatedly delayed.

But he says he’s troubled by any effort to privatize core geoengineering technologies, including patenting them or selling credits for the releases, because “commercial development cannot produce the level of transparency and trust the world needs to make sensible decisions about deployment,” as [he wrote](#) in an earlier blog post.

Keith says a private company would have financial motives to oversell the benefits, to downplay the risks, and to continue selling its services even as the planet cools to lower than preindustrial temperatures.

“Doing it as a startup is a terrible idea,” he says.

For its part, the company says it’s operating on the best modeling research available today, and that it will adjust its practices as it learns more and hopes to collaborate with nations and experts to guide these efforts as it scales up.

“We are convinced solar [geoengineering] is the only feasible path to staying below 2 °C [of warming over preindustrial levels], and we will work with the scientific community to deploy this life-saving tool as safely and quickly as possible,” Iseman said in an email.

But critics stress that the time to engage with experts and the public would have been before the company began injecting material into the stratosphere and trying to sell cooling credits—and that it’s likely to face an icy reception from many of those parties now.

Update: This story was updated to add comments from Kelly Wanser, executive director of SilverLining.

War, sanctions, energy, Germany, Russia: feb12 mind-boggling stat

The sabotage presented a major energy crisis for the United States’ European allies. Europe [imports](#) nearly 40% of its gas from Russia, and the Nord Stream 1 was responsible for delivering approximately [one third of that supply](#).

War, Erdogan: feb12 SAT FEB 11, AT 4:10 PM Only One Border Crossing Open In Opposition-Held Northwestern Syria

Only One Border Crossing Open In Opposition-Held Northwestern Syria

BY TYLER DURDEN

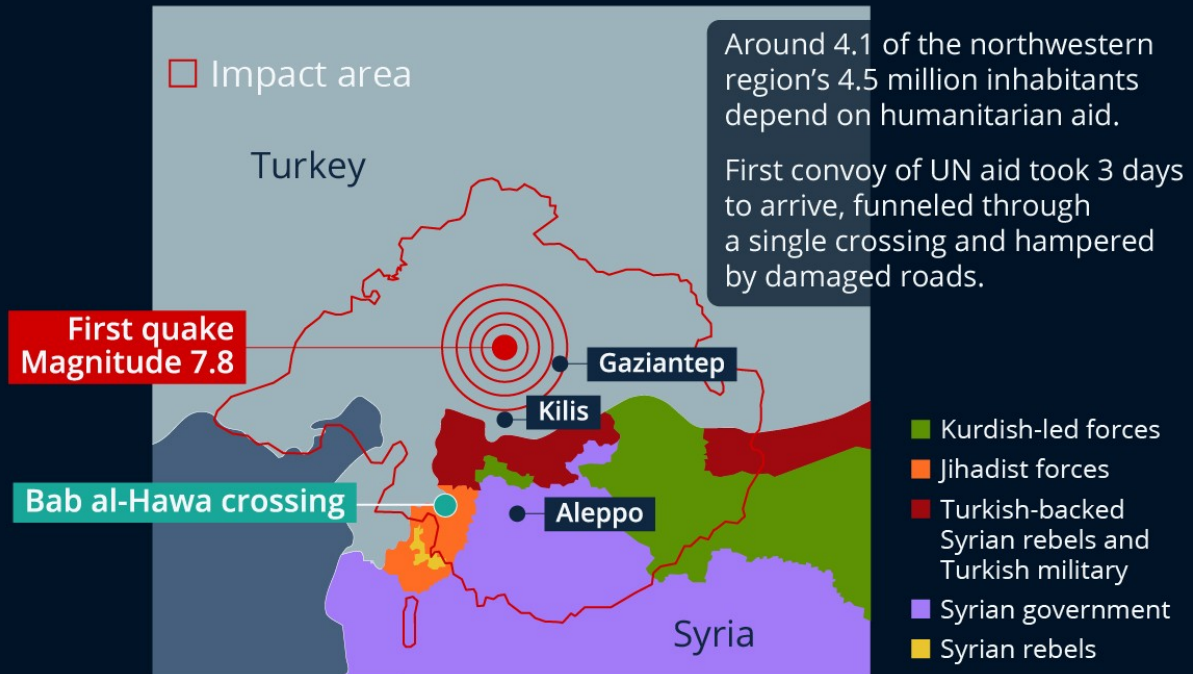
SATURDAY, FEB 11, 2023 - 04:10 PM

[International organizations are calling for more border crossings to be opened](#) for aid to reach Northwestern Syria, where thousands of people have died following Monday's earthquake in neighboring Turkey. **Even before the quake, the opposition-held region of Syria was deep in humanitarian crisis**, with 4.1 million out of its 4.5 million inhabitants depending on humanitarian aid, following a nearly 12-year-long civil war that is still ongoing.

[As Statista's Anna Fleck shows in the chart below](#), **currently only one UN-sanctioned border crossing is operational between Turkey and Syria**. It saw the first convoy of six trucks carrying aid on Thursday, three days after the quake struck, despite having been planned before the earthquake. According to the UN, the convoy was hampered by heavy damage to roads on the Turkish side. The second convoy is reported to have arrived only today.

Only One Border Crossing Open In Opposition-Held NW Syria

Map of the Bab al-Hawa crossing and different controlled regions impacted by the earthquake



Source: Janes via BBC



statista

You will find more infographics at [Statista](https://www.statista.com)

It has been particularly difficult to get aid to the people in need in northwestern Syria since decisions must be negotiated with the Assad government, often with Turkey and Russia too, via the UN, which can be a slow process.

So far, Syrian government-controlled areas have received some aid, provided from countries such as Russia, Iraq and Iran. This list of donors is more limited to that of Turkey since many countries do not want to have direct dealings with Assad following the civil war. When delivering aid to the Syrian government directly, it has a hold over what aid is delivered where, meaning it likely won't

go to the opposition-held regions. **According to the Guardian, in 2021, [researchers found](#) that the Central Bank of Syria was taking 51 cents in every dollar of aid.**

Between 2014 and 2021, there were four crossings sanctioned by the UN into Syria. Since then, however, UN Security Council vetoes from China and Russia cut these down to just one, the Bab al-Hawa crossing.

Reuters [reports](#) that **Ankara is currently discussing reopening a border crossing into Syrian government territory and also considering opening another into the Idlib region.**

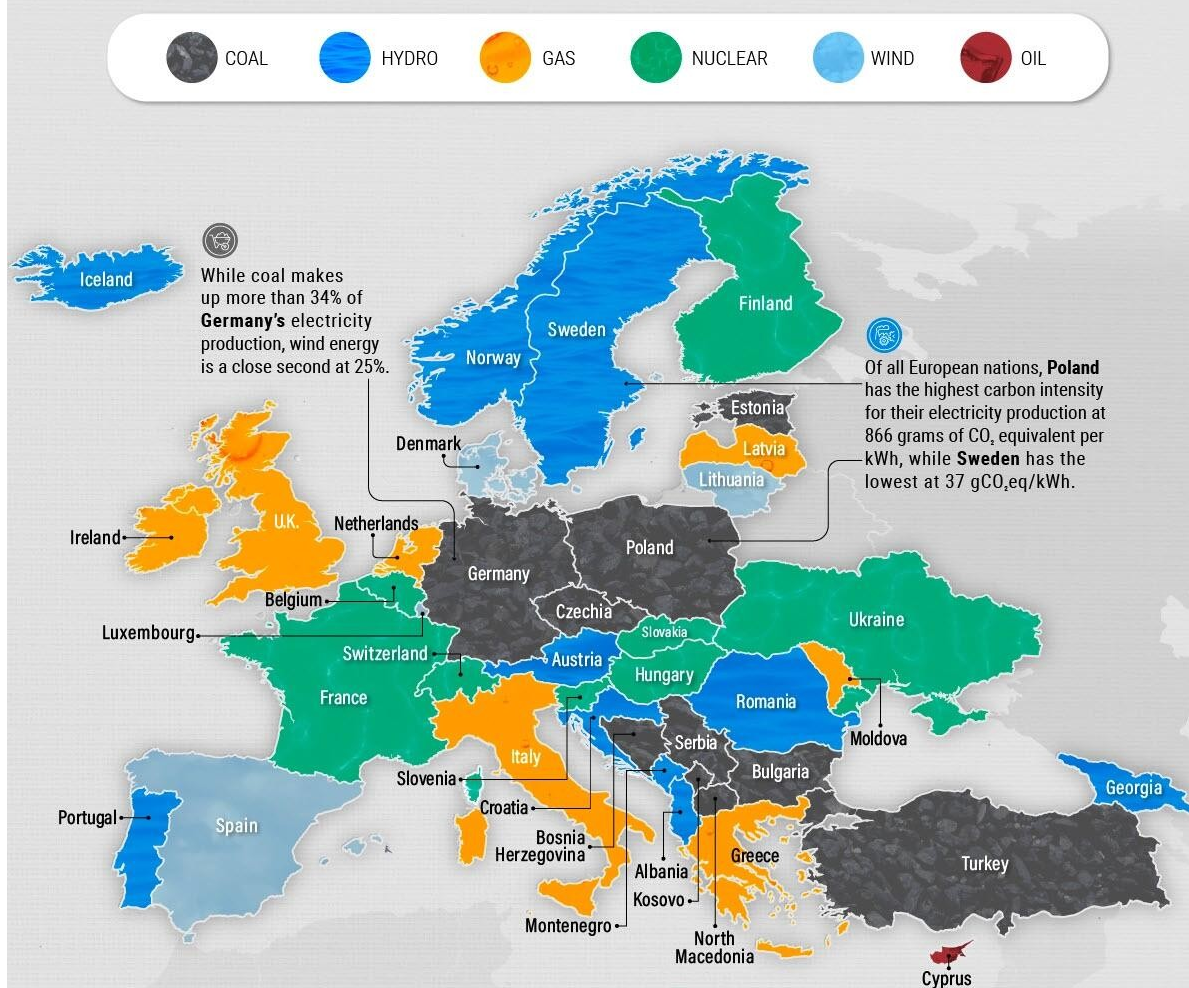
A total of 21,000 people were killed when a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Turkey, ricocheting into neighboring Syria.

War: feb12 Third High-Altitude Airborne Object Shot Down By US Fighter Jet

Stats, energy, government feb12 Mapping Europe's Biggest Sources Of Electricity By Country

EUROPE'S Biggest Sources of Electricity

BY COUNTRY



EU Electricity Generation by Source 2021



Source: Electricity Maps, IEA, BP Statistical Review of World Energy, Eurostat, Government of Iceland

This map shows the top source of electricity production averaged over the twelve months from November 2021 to November 2022 unless otherwise stated. Data for Georgia and Moldova is from a five year period (2017-2021).

Stats, government: feb12 Homicide in England and Wales: year ending March 2022: only 696??!! Thts what it says...Saving the whole page

1.Main Points

- Homicide returned to pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels, with 696 victims in the latest year; this is 130 more (a 23% increase) than the year ending March 2021 when government restrictions meant there was less social contact.
- There were 696 victims of homicide in the year ending March 2022, 130 more (a 23% increase) than the previous year (566 victims; [Appendix table 1](#)). However, the previous year covered extended time periods where coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions were in place to limit social contact. It is thought that these restrictions led to a fall in the level of public space homicides in this year. The number of homicides in the latest year is similar to the four pre-pandemic years, from the year ending March 2017 (688 victims) to the year ending March 2020 (677 victims, including 39 victims from the Grays lorry tragedy in 2019).

wales, short history, nine nations of china similar: semi-autonomous regions overseen by

the head state, which would be in control of law making and defense. There are many of these relationships throughout the world in various forms of government. I suppose what interesting about this post is that the idea of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland is not unique to area, although the people who fought for these territorial divides may think so. In reality, they are probably just necessary for different ethnicities and cultures to be able to coexist, hence why they exist. They're a reason for everything, as they say

Despite being part of Great Britain and joined with England by land, **Wales is a country in its own right.**

Why is it called England and Wales?

In 1283, the English, led by Edward I, with the biggest army brought together in England since the 11th century, conquered the remainder of Wales, then organised as the Principality of Wales. This was then united with the English crown by the Statute of Rhuddlan of 1284.

Why is Wales a separate country from England?

Wales is a constituent country which forms part of the United Kingdom because **it has its own government and national identity.** However, it is not a sovereign country because the UK government still has authority when it comes to law-making.

The United Kingdom (UK) is made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Is Wales its own country?

Wales is a country that forms part of the island of Great Britain. There are three countries that make up this island: Wales, and our neighbours England and Scotland.

What is Wales, exactly?

Wales is a country that forms part of the island of Great Britain. There are three countries that make up this island: Wales, and our neighbours England and Scotland.

Wales also forms part of the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (to give it its full name) is a "sovereign state" that is formed of four countries: Wales, England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, which is situated on the island of Ireland.

How is modern Wales governed?

While Wales has its own government and parliament today, from the early 1700s until the late 1990s. Wales was ruled in law by the government of the United Kingdom (UK). Both the UK Government and Parliament are based in Westminster in London, England.

There was a public vote held in Wales in 1997 to determine whether we should have more control over our own laws and government policies.

As a result of that vote, a National Assembly for Wales was created and certain powers started to be moved ("devolved") from Westminster to Wales.

This process continued throughout the 21st century, with further powers to make laws and collect taxes moving to Wales recently.

Today, Wales has a legislature - Senedd Cymru (the Welsh Parliament in Welsh) that is responsible for making, scrutinising and passing laws, and an executive - the Welsh Government -

responsible for making most of the day-to-day decisions that affect people who live in Wales.

Today, this means that Wales has two governments - the Welsh Government and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, each one with power and responsibility over different things.

During the [Roman occupation of Britain](#), the area of present-day England and Wales was administered as a single unit, except for the land to the north of [Hadrian's Wall](#) - though the Roman-occupied area varied in extent, and for a time extended to the [Antonine/Severan Wall](#). At that time, most of the native inhabitants of [Roman Britain](#) spoke [Brythonic languages](#), and were all regarded as [Britons](#), divided into numerous tribes. After the conquest, the Romans administered this region as a single unit, the [province](#) of [Britain](#).

Long after the departure of the Romans, the Britons in what became Wales developed their [own system of law](#), first codified by [Hywel Dda](#) (Hywel the Good; reigned 942–950) when he was king of most of present-day Wales; in England [Anglo-Saxon law](#) was initially codified by [Alfred the Great](#) in his [Legal Code](#), c. 893. However, after the [Norman invasion of Wales](#) in the 11th century, [English law](#) came to apply in the parts of Wales conquered by the [Normans](#) (the [Welsh Marches](#)). In 1283, the English, led by [Edward I](#), with the biggest army brought together in England since the 11th century, [conquered the remainder of Wales](#), then organised as the [Principality of Wales](#). This was then united with the English crown by the [Statute of Rhuddlan](#) of 1284. This aimed to replace Welsh criminal law with English law.

Welsh law continued to be used for civil cases until the annexation of Wales to England in the 16th century by the Welsh [House of Tudor](#). The [Laws in Wales Acts 1535 and 1542](#) then consolidated the administration of all the Welsh territories and incorporated them fully into the legal system of the Kingdom of England.^[1] This was in part to update outdated Welsh laws, but also to control Wales alongside England; through these acts, Wales could be seen as equals to the English,^[2] this was reflected on both [Henry VIII](#) and [Elizabeth I](#)'s coat of arms where the dragon represented Wales and the lion represented England,^{[3][full citation needed]} but as soon as the Tudor dynasty ended with the death of [Elizabeth I](#), the [red dragon of Wales](#) was dropped and replaced with the [unicorn](#) of Scotland with the succession of [King James I](#) who demoted Wales' status on the coat of arms and on the first adaptation of the [Flag of Great Britain](#).^[4]

Prior to 1746, it was not clear whether a reference to "England" in legislation included Wales, and so in 1746, Parliament passed the [Wales and Berwick Act](#). This specified that in all prior and future laws, references to "England" would by default include Wales (and [Berwick-upon-Tweed](#)). The Wales and Berwick Act was repealed by the [Welsh Language Act 1967](#), although the statutory definition of "England" created by that Act still applies for laws passed before 1967. In new legislation since then, what was referred to as "England" is now "England and Wales", while subsequent references to "England" and "Wales" refer to those political divisions.

Company registration[[edit](#)]

Main article: [Companies House](#)

For a [company](#) to be [incorporated](#) in the United Kingdom, its application for registration with [Companies House](#) must state "whether the company's registered office is to be situated in England and Wales (or in Wales), in Scotland or in Northern Ireland",^[5] which will determine the law applicable to that business entity. A registered office must be specified as "in Wales" if the company wishes to use a name ending *cyfyngedig* or *cyf*, rather than *Limited* or *Ltd.* or to avail itself of certain other privileges relating to the official use of the Welsh language.

he truth is far more interesting. China is a mosaic of several distinct regions, each with its own resources, dynamics, and historical character.

As a traveler, teacher, and professional investor who has been exploring China since 1986, I've come to think of these regions as the Nine Nations of China (inspired, in part, by Joel Garreau's [Nine Nations of North America](#)). Taken individually, these "nations" would account for eight of the 20 most populous countries in the world.

About the Author

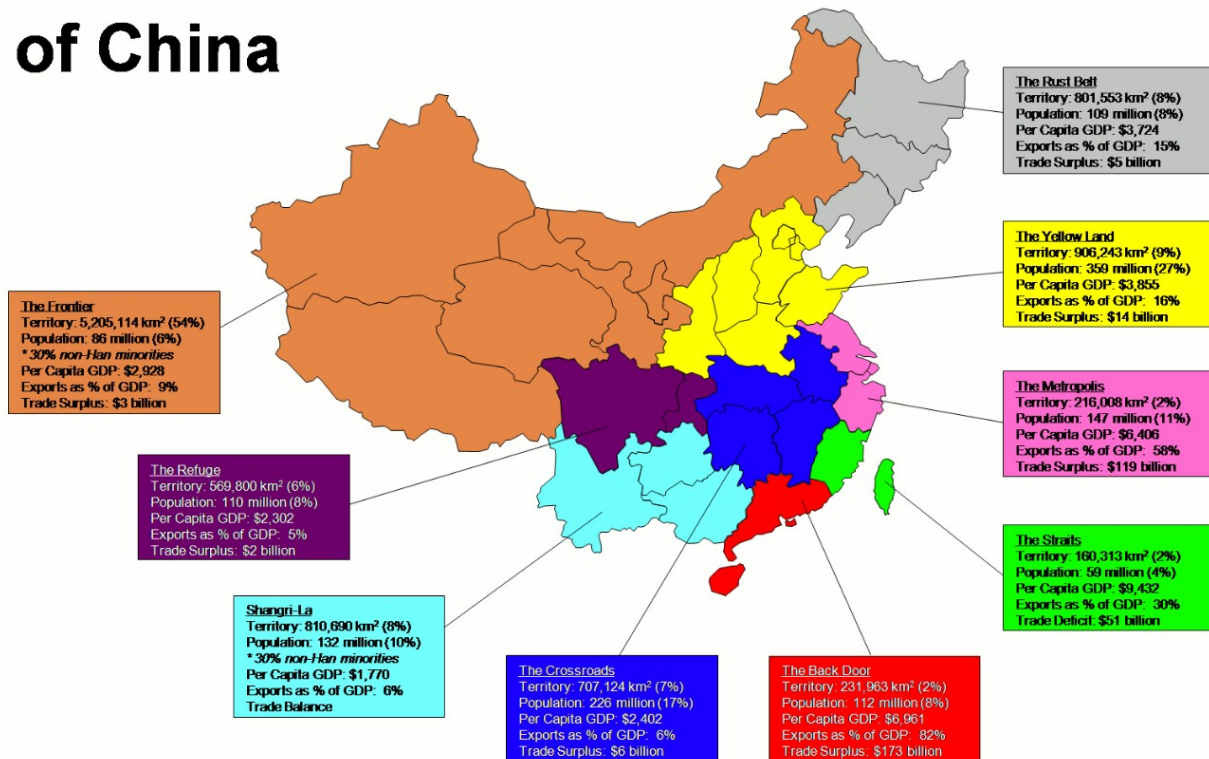
Patrick Chovanec (Patrick Chovanec) is an Associate Professor of Practice at Tsinghua University's School of Economics and Management in Beijing, China, where he teaches in the school's International MBA Program. His insights into Chinese business, economics, politics, and culture have been featured by both Chinese and international media including CNN, BBC, CNBC, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, *Bloomberg*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Forbes*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Atlantic*, PBS, NPR, and *Al Jazeera*. He serves as Chairman of the Public Policy Development Committee for the American Chamber of Commerce in China.

Professor Chovanec has worked for several private equity funds focused on China, and continues to advise numerous fund managers, corporations, and governments. Previously, he served as director of *Institutional Investor's* Asia Pacific Institute, based in Hong Kong, and its Global Fixed Income Institute, based in London. Prior to that, Chovanec worked in Washington, DC, as an aide to political strategist William Kristol and to Speaker of the House John Boehner. He also served for nine years as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Professor Chovanec first visited China in 1986, and has traveled to every one of its 31 provinces, as well as Taiwan. His travels have taken him to over 45 countries, including India, Pakistan, Russia, South Africa, Cuba, Vietnam, and Cambodia. He is one of only a very limited number of U.S. citizens to have visited North Korea.

He holds an BA in Economics from Princeton University and an MBA in Finance and Accounting from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, where he graduated as a Palmer Scholar. He is a U.S. Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

The Nine Nations of China



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The **autonomous regions** ([Chinese](#): 自治區; [pinyin](#): Zìzhìqū) are the highest-level [administrative divisions of China](#). Like [Chinese provinces](#), an autonomous region has its own local government, but under [Chinese law](#), an autonomous region has more legislative rights, such as the right to "formulate self-government regulations and other separate regulations."^[1] An autonomous region is the highest level of [minority autonomous entity in China](#), which has a comparably higher population of a particular minority ethnic group.

The autonomous regions are the creations of the [People's Republic of China](#) (PRC), as they are not recognized by the [Republic of China](#) (ROC) based in Taiwan, which previously [ruled Mainland China](#) before the PRC's establishment in 1949.

History: Roman province of Britannia in 410



government: feb12 Fiery UK Anti-Refugee Protest Erupts After Minor Girl Records Adult Migrant's Proposition, thousands seen on twitter in massive crowds, 15 arrested, police cars damaged, fires..

Fiery UK Anti-Refugee Protest Erupts After Minor Girl Records Adult Migrant's Proposition

BY TYLER DURDEN

SUNDAY, FEB 12, 2023 - 09:45 AM

A peaceful protest outside a UK hotel housing asylum-seekers turned violent on Friday evening **as protestors -- enraged over a recording of an alleged proposition of a minor English girl by a migrant -- reportedly threw bricks and set a police van on fire.**

Three people were arrested in the uproar that took place next to the Suites Hotel in the borough of Knowsley, Merseyside, near Liverpool. No serious injuries were reported.

For officers and police vehicles to be damaged in the course of their duty protecting the public is disgraceful," said Assistant Chief Constable Paul White.

The protest was sparked by a video posted this week by a 15-year-old British girl. **She says it captures a self-proclaimed 25-year-old migrant propositioning her -- and persisting even after she tells him she's ten years younger.**

When the girl says, "I'm only 15," the migrant replies, "Okay, good."

"That's not good," says the girl. "You don't do this in this country...you go to jail if you do this."

War, china: feb12 Now China Claims It's Tracking Unidentified Object Over Port City

Now China Claims It's Tracking Unidentified Object Over Port City

BY TYLER DURDEN

SUNDAY, FEB 12, 2023 - 10:55 AM

Now China is jumping in on [the trend](#), apparently, as authorities in China say they have spotted and are tracking an unidentified object over waters near the port city of Qingdao.

Scant details have been given, but the claim was briefly detailed in [Bloomberg](#) on Sunday, with the publication saying authorities are **preparing to down the object**.

Area fisherman and boats in the port waters have been alerted and told to follow safety precautions due to the object, which is hovering at an unknown altitude.

According to the [report](#):

An employee at the marine development authority of Qingdao's Jimo district said "relevant authorities" are preparing to bring down the object, the report said. The employee was not informed what the object was.

By the vague description, it could be a balloon of some type, or **alternately perhaps the Chinese are attempting to hype their own "foreign threat" news story as a counter** following the Pentagon shooting down the Chinese 'spy' balloon, which Beijing has maintained all along was just a weather research platform.

As for the now recovered balloon which was shot down over a week ago Saturday off the US east coast, it is undergoing FBI analysis. However, the undercarriage, which US officials say contained surveillance gear, has yet to be lifted from the ocean, and is said to be large - at least 30 feet across.

And then there's the bizarre couple of incidents over far northern parts of the American continent...

War, Erdogan: feb12 Turkey Arrests 130 Building Contractors As Earthquake Deaths Surpass 28,000

Turkey Arrests 130 Building Contractors As Earthquake Deaths Surpass 28,000

BY TYLER DURDEN

SUNDAY, FEB 12, 2023 - 12:00 PM

The death toll from the Turkey-Syria earthquake **soared past 28,000 killed this weekend**, and many more thousands may still be buried under the rubble, as in many areas of the sprawling disaster zone, at hundreds of miles wide, rescue operations have only barely begun.

Turkish officials estimate that around 25,000 buildings either totally collapsed or were severely damaged in the earthquake, and that more already shaken buildings could potentially collapse as a result of aftershocks and tremors.

But in a new development, "Approximately **130 people were arrested** or are the target of arrest warrants issued by Turkish officials for their involvement in **alleged faulty and illegal construction methods** as rescue teams work to locate survivors in the wreckage of thousands of buildings downed by an earthquake nearly a week ago," [*The Hill*](#) reports based on regional sources.

The arrest round-up is said to be the first major action of the newly established "Earthquake Crimes Investigation Offices" which will investigate malfeasance which contributed to the high numbers of buildings that collapsed.

"We will follow this up meticulously until the necessary judicial process is concluded, especially for buildings that suffered heavy damage and buildings that caused deaths and injuries," a Turkish official said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has vowed a tough response amid public finger-pointing and outrage among victims' families, also given the sheer scale of the massive catastrophe, which left entire cities demolished - for example the major city of Antakya in Hatay province.

The earthquake response is sure to be a front and center issue as the Erdogan government heads into tough parliamentary and presidential elections set for May.

History, government: the Louisiana purchase: acquisition of the territory of Louisiana by the United States from the French First Republic in 1803; Kingdom of France had controlled the Louisiana territory from 1699 until it was ceded to Spain in 1762. In 1800, Napoleon, the First Consul of the French Republic, regained ownership of Louisiana as part of a broader effort to re-establish a French colonial empire in North America.

The **Louisiana Purchase** ([French](#): *Vente de la Louisiane*, [lit.](#) 'Sale of Louisiana') was the acquisition of the [territory of Louisiana](#) by the [United States](#) from the [French First Republic](#) in 1803. In return for fifteen million dollars, or approximately eighteen dollars per square mile, the United States nominally acquired a total of 828,000 sq mi (2,140,000 km²; 530,000,000 acres) in [Middle America](#). However, France only controlled a small fraction of this area, most of which was inhabited by [Native Americans](#); effectively, for the majority of the area, the United States bought the "preemptive" right to obtain "Indian" lands by treaty or by conquest, to the exclusion of other colonial powers.^{[1][2]}

The [Kingdom of France](#) had controlled the Louisiana territory from 1699 until [it was ceded](#) to [Spain](#) in 1762. In 1800, [Napoleon](#), the First Consul of the [French Republic](#), [regained ownership](#) of Louisiana as part of a broader effort to re-establish a [French colonial empire](#) in North America. However, France's failure to suppress a [revolt in Saint-Domingue](#), coupled with the prospect of renewed warfare with the [United Kingdom](#), prompted Napoleon to consider selling Louisiana to the United States. Acquisition of Louisiana was a long-term goal of President [Thomas Jefferson](#), who was especially eager to gain control of the crucial [Mississippi River](#) port of [New Orleans](#). Jefferson tasked [James Monroe](#) and [Robert R. Livingston](#) with purchasing New Orleans. Negotiating with French Treasury Minister [François Barbé-Marbois](#), the American representatives quickly agreed to purchase the entire territory of Louisiana after it was offered. Overcoming the opposition of the [Federalist Party](#), Jefferson and Secretary of State [James Madison](#) persuaded Congress to ratify and fund the Louisiana Purchase.

The Louisiana Purchase extended United States sovereignty across the Mississippi River, nearly doubling the nominal size of the country. The purchase included land from fifteen

present [U.S. states](#) and two [Canadian provinces](#), including the entirety of [Arkansas](#), [Missouri](#), [Iowa](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Kansas](#), and [Nebraska](#); large portions of [North Dakota](#) and [South Dakota](#); the area of [Montana](#), [Wyoming](#), and [Colorado](#) east of the [Continental Divide](#); the portion of [Minnesota](#) west of the Mississippi River; the northeastern section of [New Mexico](#); northern portions of [Texas](#); New Orleans and the portions of the present [state of Louisiana](#) west of the Mississippi River; and small portions of land within [Alberta](#) and [Saskatchewan](#). At the time of the purchase, the territory of Louisiana's non-native population was around 60,000 inhabitants, of whom half were [enslaved Africans](#).^[3] The western borders of the purchase were later settled by the 1819 [Adams-Onís Treaty](#) with [Spain](#), while the northern borders of the purchase were adjusted by the [Treaty of 1818](#) with Britain.

History: key slavic history: Great Moravia: first major state that was predominantly West Slavic to emerge in the area of Central Europe,[4] possibly including territories which are today part of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Poland, Romania, Croatia, Serbia and Ukraine. The only formation preceding it in these territories was Samo's tribal union known from between 631 and 658 AD.

Its core territory is the region now called Moravia in the eastern part of the Czech Republic alongside the [Morava River](#), which gave its name to the kingdom. The kingdom saw the rise of the first ever Slavic literary culture in the [Old Church Slavonic](#) language as well as the expansion of [Christianity](#), first via missionaries from [East Francia](#), and later after the arrival of [Saints Cyril and Methodius](#) in 863 and the creation of the [Glagolitic alphabet](#), the first alphabet dedicated to a Slavic language. Glagolitic was subsequently replaced by a simpler [Cyrillic](#).

Although the borders of his empire cannot be exactly determined, Moravia reached its largest territorial extent under prince [Svatopluk I](#) ([Slovak](#): *Svätopluk*), who ruled from 870 to 894. Separatism and internal conflicts emerging after Svatopluk's death contributed to the fall of Great Moravia, which was overrun by the [Hungarians](#), who then included the territory of present-day Slovakia in their domains. The exact date of Moravia's collapse is unknown, but it occurred between 902 and 907.

After the fall of Great Moravia, its central territory was gradually divided between the newly ascending [Kingdom of Bohemia](#) and [Hungarian Kingdom](#). The frontier was originally settled on the Morava river. However, from the 12th century, the Czech kings managed to gain more and more of the region on the eastern bank, eventually gaining the whole stretch of the eastern territory from Uherské Hradiště down to Strážnice along the White Carpathians. The original core territory of Great Moravia, nowadays forming

the eastern part of Moravia and situated between the White Carpathians and the Chřiby mountains, has retained its non-Czech identity in its designation "Slovácko" which shows common origins with the name of the neighbouring Slovakia—a token of a past shared identity in Great Moravian times.

Nevertheless, the extent, and even the very location of Great Moravia ([historiographical](#) terms, as its original formal name is unknown) are a subject of debate.^[11] Rival theories place its centre south of the Danube (the Morava in Serbia) or on the Great Hungarian Plain.^[23] The exact date when the Moravian state was founded is also disputed, but it probably occurred in the early 830s under Prince Mojmir I (r. 820s/830s–846), the first known ruler of the united Moravia. Mojmir and his successor, [Rastislav](#) ("Rostislav" in Czech), who ruled from 846 to 870, initially acknowledged the [suzerainty](#) of the [Carolingian](#) monarchs, but the Moravian fight for independence caused a series of armed conflicts with [East Francia](#) from the 840s.

Traditional view[\[edit\]](#)

According to most historians, the core territories of Moravia were located in the valley of the river [Morava](#), today in present-day Czech Republic and Slovakia

The earliest possible reference to Slavic tribes living in the valley of the northern Morava river was made by the [Byzantine](#) historian [Procopius](#).^[49] He wrote of a group of [Germanic Heruli](#) who "passed through the territory of all of the [Sclavenes](#)" while moving towards [Denmark](#) in 512.^[50] Archaeological sites have yielded hand-made ceramics,^[51] and closely analogous objects in southern [Poland](#) and western [Ukraine](#) appeared at the confluence of the northern Morava River and the [Middle Danube](#), dated to around 550.^[52]

Large territories in the [Pannonian Basin](#) were conquered after 568 by the nomadic [Avars](#) who had arrived from the [Eurasian Steppes](#).^{[49][53]} The Slavs were forced to pay tribute to the Avars and to participate in their raids against the [Byzantine Empire](#), the [Franks](#) and the [Lombards](#).^[49]

Written sources from the 9th century contain almost no information on the internal affairs of Moravia.^[14] Only two legal texts—the [Nomocanon](#) and the *Court Law for the People*—have been preserved.^{[14][142]} The former is a translation of a collection of Byzantine [ecclesiastical law](#); the latter is based on the 8th-century Byzantine law code known as [Ecloga](#).^{[142][143]} Both were completed by Methodius shortly before his death in 885.^[142]

check republic: why its name always changes, I guess. good stuff though

Bohemia was a [duchy](#) of [Great Moravia](#), later an independent principality, a [kingdom](#) in the [Holy Roman Empire](#), and subsequently a part of the [Habsburg monarchy](#) and the [Austrian Empire](#).^[5] After [World War I](#) and the establishment of an [independent Czechoslovak state](#), the whole of Bohemia became a part of [Czechoslovakia](#), defying claims of the German-speaking inhabitants that regions with German-speaking majority should be included in the [Republic of German-Austria](#). Between 1938 and 1945, these border regions were joined to [Nazi Germany](#) as the [Sudetenland](#).^[6]

The remainder of Czech territory became the [Second Czechoslovak Republic](#), and was subsequently occupied as the [Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia](#) until the end of World War II, after which Bohemia became part of the restored Czechoslovakia. In 1969, the Czech lands (including Bohemia) were given autonomy within Czechoslovakia as the [Czech Socialist Republic](#). In 1990, the name was changed to the [Czech Republic](#), which became a separate state in 1993 with the [breakup of Czechoslovakia](#).^[6]

Until 1948, Bohemia was an administrative unit of Czechoslovakia as one of its "lands" (*země*).^[7] Since then, administrative reforms have replaced self-governing lands with a modified system of "regions" (*kraje*), which do not follow the borders of the historical Czech lands (or the regions from the 1960 and 2000 reforms).^[7] However, the three lands are mentioned in the preamble of the [Constitution of the Czech Republic](#): "We, citizens of the Czech Republic in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia..."^[8]

The **Lands of the Bohemian Crown** were a number of incorporated states in [Central Europe](#) during the [medieval](#) and [early modern periods](#) connected by [feudal](#) relations under the [Bohemian kings](#). The [crown lands](#) primarily consisted of the [Kingdom of Bohemia](#), an [electorate](#) of the [Holy Roman Empire](#) according to the [Golden Bull of 1356](#), the [Margraviate of Moravia](#), the [Duchies of Silesia](#), and the two [Lusatias](#), known as the Margraviate of Upper Lusatia and the Margraviate of Lower Lusatia, as well as other territories throughout its history. This agglomeration of states nominally under the rule of the Bohemian kings was historically referred to simply as **Bohemia**.^[1] They are now sometimes referred to in scholarship as the [Czech lands](#), a direct translation of the Czech abbreviated name.

The joint rule of *Corona regni Bohemiae* was legally established by decree of [King Charles IV](#) issued on 7 April 1348, on the foundation of the original [Czech lands](#) ruled by the [Přemyslid dynasty](#) until 1306. By linking the territories, the interconnection of [crown lands](#) thus no more belonged to a king or a dynasty but to the Bohemian monarchy itself, symbolically personalized by the [Crown of Saint Wenceslas](#). During the reign of [King Ferdinand I](#) from 1526, the lands of the Bohemian Crown became a constituent part of the [Habsburg monarchy](#).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lands_of_the_Bohemian_Crown

**early modern period was from muslim conquest
of constantinople and ending with napoleans
rise to power**



A Japanese depiction of a Portuguese trading [carrack](#). Advances in shipbuilding technology during the [Late Middle Ages](#) would pave the way for the global European presence characteristic of the early modern period.

interesting view of a map of Europe from the year 1700



early modern period key events

800 (most often 1815). Particular facets of early modernity include:

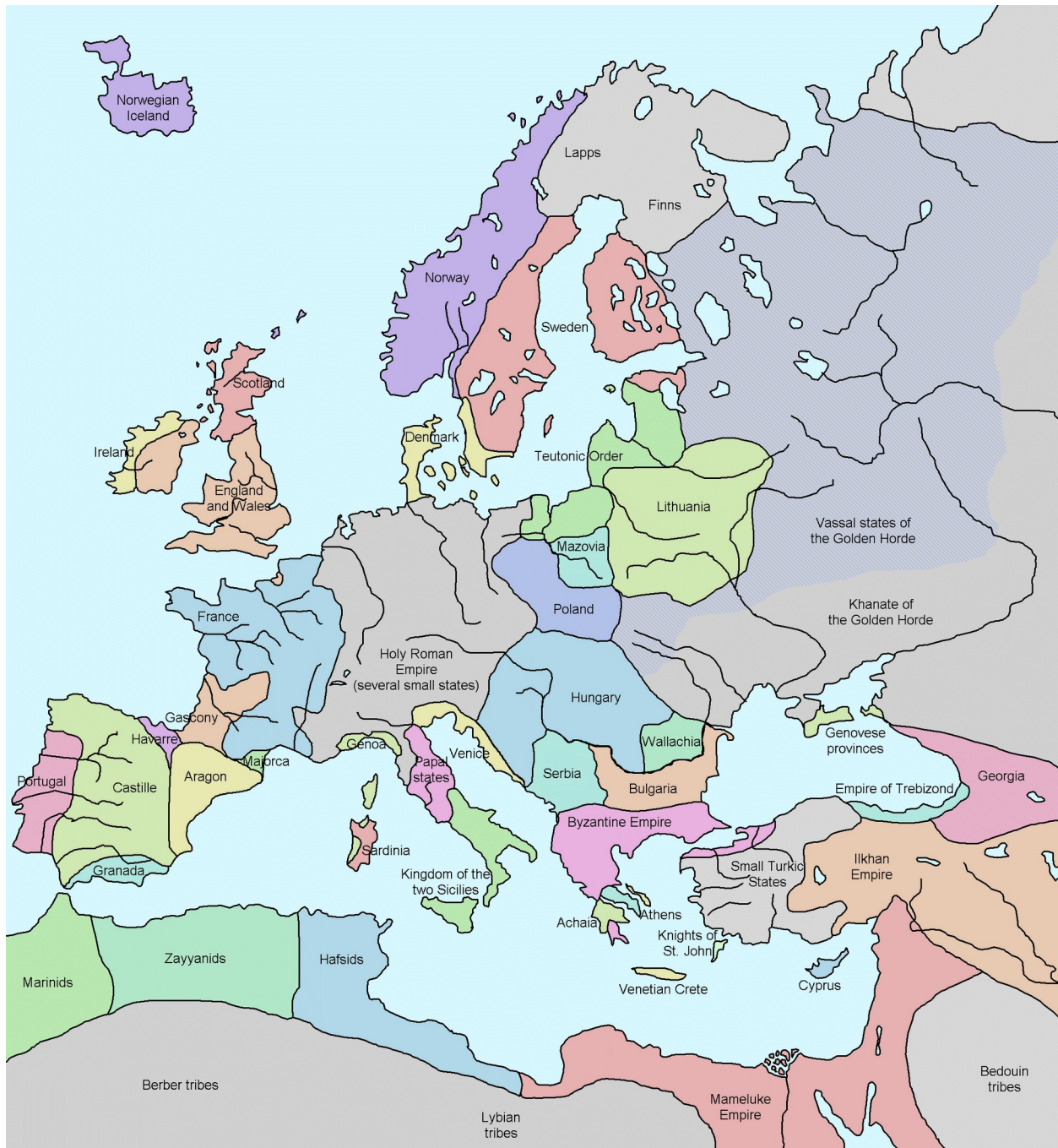
- The [rise of the Ottoman Empire](#)
- The [Reformation](#) and [Counter-Reformation](#)
- The [Sengoku](#) and [Sakoku period](#)
- The Spanish [Reconquista](#)
- The [Age of Discovery](#)
- Influence of [Mughal](#) politics and culture over India
- The [spread of Islam in Indonesia](#)
- The [Columbian exchange](#) and [European colonization of the Americas](#)
- The [Atlantic slave trade](#)

- The rise of [mercantilism](#) and [capitalism](#)
- The [Golden Age of Piracy](#)
- [Stagnation](#) of the Ottoman Empire
- [High Qing period](#)

Important events in the early modern period include:

- The spread of the [printing press](#) (c. 1460)
- Independence and influence of the [Deccan Sultanates](#) (1490–1687)^{[\[note 1\]](#)}
- [Ottoman–Persian Wars](#) (1519–1823)
- The [Thirty Years' War](#) (1618–1648) and the [Peace of Westphalia](#) (1648) in Europe
- [Transition from Ming to Qing](#) (1618–1683)
- The [English Civil War](#) (1642–1651), the [Glorious Revolution](#) (1688–1689), and the union of [Great Britain](#) (1707)
- [Mughal–Maratha Wars](#) (1680–1707)
- The [Seven Years' War](#) (1756–1763) in Europe and North America
- Development of the [Watt steam engine](#) (1763–1775)
- The [American War of Independence](#) from the British Empire (1775–1783)
- The [French Revolution](#) (1789–1799) and the [Napoleonic Wars](#) in Europe (1803–1815)
- The [Congress of Vienna](#) at the end of the [Napoleonic Wars](#)
- [Latin American wars of independence](#) (c. early 19th century)

history, holy roman empire, journal: nice map from 1328 shows territorial lines of the Holy Roman Empire



Journal, history, church, holy roman empire, fall of rome: Baptism of Poland in 966, Mieszko converts to Christianity..soviets block pope from visiting poland when they attempt to celebrate 1000 years of Christianity

this shows how the church spread its influence: by providing support to smaller nations, similar to the clients states backed by the United States or

Russia today. These smaller nations, at least the time, lacked the same expertise, knowledge, and resources as the Holy Roman Empire, and thus, people could be used by the church within the nation to subvert the local customs, which would hopefully lead to eventual assimilation.

Baptism[\[edit\]](#)



[Mieszko I](#), the first Christian ruler of Poland. Depicted by [Jan Matejko](#) as holding a crucifix in an allusion to the Baptism of Poland.

"The Baptism of Poland" refers to the ceremony when the first ruler of the Polish state, [Mieszko I](#), and much of his court converted to the Christian religion.^{[5][8]} Mieszko's wife [Dobrawa of Bohemia](#), a zealous Christian, played a significant role in promoting Christianity in Poland, and might have had a significant influence on converting Mieszko himself.^{[1][7]}

The exact place of Mieszko's baptism is disputed; Most historians argue that [Gniezno](#) or [Poznań](#) are the most likely sites.^{[7][10]} However, other historians have suggested alternative locations, such as [Ostrów Lednicki](#), or even in German [Regensburg](#).^[10] The date of Mieszko's baptism was 14 April 966, [Holy Saturday](#).^[7]

The ceremony was preceded by a week of oral catechism and several days of fasting. The actual ceremony involved pouring water over the segregated groups of men and women, although it is possible that their heads were immersed instead, and anointed with the [chrism](#).^[7]

Christianization of Poland^[edit]

The baptismal mission which began in the two major cities of Gniezno and Poznań with the baptism of Mieszko and his court spread throughout the country.^[7] During the 10th and 11th centuries various ecclesiastical organs were established in Poland.^{[3][5]} This included the building of churches and the appointment of clergy.^{[3][7]} The first [Bishop of Poland](#), [Jordan](#), was appointed by [Pope John XIII](#) in 968.^[7] Mieszko's son [Bolesław I Chrobry](#) supported Christianization missions to neighboring lands, notably the mission of future Saint [Adalbert of Prague](#) to [Old Prussians](#), and established the [Archbishopric of Gniezno](#) in the year 1000.^[8]

Although at first the Christian religion was "unpopular and alien", Mieszko's baptism was highly influential^[9] but needed to be enforced by the state, and ran into some popular opposition, including [an uprising in the 1030s](#) (particularly intense in the years of 1035–1037).^{[5][9]} Nonetheless, by that time Poland had won recognition as a proper European state, from both the papacy and the [Holy Roman Empire](#).^[11]

Out of various provinces of today's Poland, Christianity's spread was slowest in [Pomerania](#), where it gained a significant following only around the 12th century.^[5] Initially, the clergy came from the Western Christian European countries; native Polish clergy took three or four generations to emerge, and were supported by the monasteries and friars that grew increasingly common in the 12th century.^[3] By the 13th century Roman Catholicism had become the dominant religion throughout Poland.^[3]

In adopting Christianity as the state religion, Mieszko sought to achieve several personal goals.^[5] He saw Poland's baptism as a way of strengthening his hold on power, as well as using it as a unifying force for the Polish people.^{[5][8]} It replaced several smaller cults with a single, central one, clearly associated with the royal court.^[7] It would also improve the position and respectability of the Polish state on the international, European scene.^[7]^[8] The Church also helped to strengthen the monarch's authority and brought to Poland much experience with regard to state administration. Thus, the Church organisation supported the state, and in return, bishops received important government titles (in the later era, they were members of the [Senate of Poland](#)).^[5]

In 1966, the [People's Republic of Poland](#) witnessed large festivities on the 1,000th anniversary of those events, with the Church celebrating the 1,000 years of Christianity in Poland, while the Communist government celebrated the secular 1,000 years of the Polish State, culminated in twice denying [Pope Paul VI](#) permission to visit Poland that

year. The desire of the Communist party to separate religion from the state made the festivities a culture clash between the state and the Church. While the Church was focusing on the religious, ecclesiastical aspects of the baptism, with slogans (in Latin) like *Sacrum Poloniae Millenium* (Poland's Sacred Millennium), [the Communist Party](#) was framing the celebrations as a secular, political anniversary of the creation of the Polish state, with slogans (in Polish) like *Tysiąclecie Państwa Polskiego* (A Thousand Years of the Polish State). As [Norman Davies](#) noted, both the Church and the Party had "rival, and mutually exclusive, interpretations of [Poland's baptism] significance".^[12]

On 30 July 1966, the [U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing](#) issued 128,475,000 commemorative stamps honoring the millennium anniversary of the adoption of Christianity in Poland.^[13]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianization_of_Poland#Baptism

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piast_dynasty

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Poland_during_the_Piast_dynasty

History of Civilization in Poland

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(Redirected from [Christianization of Poland A.D. 966.](#))

Introduction of Christianity to Poland, A.D. 966, the first painting in the series

History of Civilization in Poland (**Polish**: *Dzieje Cywilizacji w Polsce*) is a cycle of twelve oil sketches on canvas and wood, created by the Polish nominal painter [Jan Matejko](#) in 1889 with accompanying commentaries. The originals are kept at the Museum of the [Royal Castle, Warsaw](#).^[1]

History^{[[edit](#)]}

Matejko created his series along with an accompanying commentary in part to fulfill a set of research requirements for his new academic title, the degree of [Doctor of Philosophy honoris causa](#), which he received from the [Jagiellonian University](#).^{[2][3]} Much of the imagery of the cycle has been inspired by the lectures of historian [Józef Szujski](#) which Matejko might have attended around 1877–1878, or read in print afterward.^[4]

The works in the series^{[[edit](#)]}

The cycle consists of the following paintings:

#	Title
1.	<i>Zaprowadzenie chrześcijaństwa</i> (Adoption of Christianity) 1889, oil on wood panel, 79cm x 120cm
2.	<i>Koronacja pierwszego króla</i> (Coronation of the First King) 1889, oil on wood panel, 71cm x 105cm
3.	<i>Przyjęcie Żydów</i> (Reception of the Jews) 1889, oil on canvas, 76cm x 112cm
4.	<i>W Łęczycy pierwszy sejm - Spisanie praw - Ukrócenie rozbojów</i> (The First Parliament in Łęczyca) 1888, oil on wood panel, 74cm x 110cm
5.	<i>Kłeska Legnicka - Odrodzenie</i> (Defeat at Legnica) 1888, oil on wood panel, 74.5cm x 109.5cm
6.	<i>Powtórne zajęcie Rusi - Bogactwo i oświata</i> (Retaking of Rus) 1888, oil on wood panel, 79.5cm x 110cm
7.	<i>Założenie Szkoły Głównej przeniesieniem do Krakowa ugruntowane</i> (Founding of the Academy) 1889, oil on wood panel, 79.5cm x 62cm
8.	<i>Chrzest Litwy</i> (The Baptism of Lithuania) 1889, oil on canvas, 60cm x 115.5cm
9.	<i>Wpływ Uniwersytetu na kraj w wieku XV - Nowe prądy - Husytyzm i Humanizm</i> (New Trends in the 15 Century Poland) 1889, oil on wood panel, 69cm x 116cm
10 .	<i>Złoty wiek literatury w XVI wieku - Reformacja - Przewaga katolicyzmu</i> (The Golden Age in Literature) 1889, oil on wood panel, 69cm x 107cm
11 .	<i>Potęga Rzeczypospolitej u zenitu - Złota wolność - Elekcja</i> (Power of Commonwealth at its Zenith) 1889, oil on canvas, 72.5cm x 113cm
12 .	<i>Konstytucja 3 maja - Sejm Czteroletni - Komisja Edukacyjna</i> (Constitution of the 3 May) 1889, oil on wood panel, 79cm x 120cm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Another painting, not based on this sketch, Constitution of May 3, 1791, was completed in 1891.

Piast dynasty

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This article is about a Polish dynasty. For other uses, see [Piast \(disambiguation\)](#).

Piast	
	
	
Country	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Kingdom of PolandKingdom of Galicia-VolhyniaDuchy of MazoviaDuchy of SilesiaDuchies of SilesiaDuchy of Bohemia</div>
Founded	c. 960
Founder	Mieszko I of Poland
Final ruler	Casimir the Great , in the Kingdom of Poland, and George IV William of Legnica , in the Silesian duchies
Titles	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">King of PolandKing of RutheniaDuke of the PolansDuke of PolandDuke of KrakowDuke of KuyaviaDuke of MazoviaDuke of SandomierzDuke of Greater PolandDuke of SilesiaDuke of Sieradz-ŁęczycaDuke of Bohemia</div>
Dissoluti	1370, in the Kingdom of Poland, and 1675, in

on	the Duchies of Silesia
Branches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silesian Piasts, the agnatically senior and later last surviving branch of the dynasty • Masovian Piasts • House of Griffins^{[1][2]} (uncertain)

The **House of Piast** was the first historical ruling [dynasty](#) of [Poland](#).^[3] The first documented [Polish monarch](#) was Duke [Mieszko I](#) (c. 930–992).^[4] The [Piasts' royal rule in Poland](#) ended in 1370 with the death of king [Casimir III the Great](#).

Branches of the Piast dynasty continued to rule in the [Duchy of Masovia](#) and in the [Duchies of Silesia](#) until the last male [Silesian Piast](#) died in 1675. The Piasts intermarried with several noble lines of Europe, and possessed numerous titles, some within the [Holy Roman Empire](#). The [Jagiellonian](#) kings after [John I Albert](#) were also descended in the female line from Casimir III's daughter.

Inquisition, famous trial was galileo in 1633..

During the [Late Middle Ages](#) and the early [Renaissance](#), the scope of the Inquisition grew significantly in response to the [Protestant Reformation](#) and the Catholic [Counter-Reformation](#). During this period, the Inquisition conducted by the [Holy See](#) was known as the [Roman Inquisition](#). The Inquisition also expanded to other European countries,^[5] resulting in the [Spanish Inquisition](#) and the [Portuguese Inquisition](#). The Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions focused particularly on the [anusim](#) (people who were forced to abandon [Judaism](#) against their will) and on [Muslim](#) converts to Catholicism. The scale of the persecution of converted Muslims and converted Jews in Spain and Portugal was the result of suspicions that they had secretly reverted to their previous religions, although both religious minority groups were also more numerous on the [Iberian Peninsula](#) than in other parts of Europe.

During this time, [Spain](#) and [Portugal](#) operated inquisitorial courts not only in [Europe](#), but also throughout their empires in [Africa](#), [Asia](#), and the [Americas](#). This resulted in the [Goa Inquisition](#), the [Peruvian Inquisition](#), and the [Mexican Inquisition](#), among others.^[6]

With the exception of the [Papal States](#), the institution of the Inquisition was abolished in the early 19th century, after the [Napoleonic Wars](#) in Europe and the [Spanish American wars of independence](#) in the Americas. The institution survived as part of the [Roman Curia](#), but in 1908 it was renamed the [Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office](#). In 1965, it became the [Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith](#).^[7]

With the [Protestant Reformation](#), Catholic authorities became much more ready to suspect heresy in any new ideas,^[50] including those of [Renaissance humanism](#),^[51] previously strongly supported by many at the top of the Church hierarchy. The extirpation of heretics became a much broader and more complex enterprise, complicated by the politics of territorial Protestant powers, especially in northern

Europe. The Catholic Church could no longer exercise direct influence in the politics and justice-systems of lands that officially adopted Protestantism. Thus war (the [French Wars of Religion](#), the [Thirty Years' War](#)), massacre (the [St. Bartholomew's Day massacre](#)) and the missional^[52] and propaganda work (by the [Sacra congregatio de propaganda fide](#))^[53] of the [Counter-Reformation](#) came to play larger roles in these circumstances, and the [Roman law](#) type of a "judicial" approach to heresy represented by the Inquisition became less important overall. In 1542 [Pope Paul III](#) established the Congregation of the Holy Office of the Inquisition as a permanent congregation staffed with [cardinals](#) and other officials. It had the tasks of maintaining and defending the integrity of the faith and of examining and proscribing errors and false doctrines; it thus became the supervisory body of local Inquisitions.^[54] A famous case tried by the Roman Inquisition was that of [Galileo Galilei in 1633](#).

**holy roman empire, history, journal, stats:
catholic counter-reformation: "Counter-Reformation, or Catholic Reformation, In Roman Catholicism, efforts in the 16th and early 17th centuries to oppose the Protestant Reformation and reform the Catholic church. Early efforts grew out of criticism of the worldliness and corruption of the papacy and clergy during the Renaissance."**

[Paul III](#) (r. 1534–49) was the first pope to respond, convening the important [Council of Trent](#) (1545–63), which reacted to Protestant teachings on faith, grace, and the [sacraments](#) and attempted to reform training for the priesthood. The Roman [Inquisition](#) was established in 1542 to control heresy within Catholic territories, and the [Jesuits](#) under [St. Ignatius of Loyola](#) undertook educational and missionary work aimed at conversion or reconversion. Emperors [Charles V](#) and [Philip II](#) took military action against Protestant growth. Later popes of the Counter-Reformation included [Pius V](#), Gregory XIII, and Sixtus V. Saints Charles Borromeo, Philip Neri, John of the Cross, [Teresa of Ávila](#), Francis de Sales, and Vincent de Paul were among the most influential reforming figures.

The Roman Inquisition began in 1542 as part of the Catholic Church's Counter-Reformation against the spread of Protestantism, but it represented a less harsh affair than the previously established Spanish Inquisition.^[3] In 1588,^[4] [Pope Sixtus V](#) established, with [Immensa Aeterni Dei](#), 15 [congregations](#) of the [Roman Curia](#) of which the [Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Roman and Universal Inquisition](#) was one. In

1908, the congregation was renamed the [Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office](#) and in 1965 it was renamed again and is now known as the [Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith](#).

While the Roman Inquisition was originally designed to combat the spread of Protestantism in Italy, the institution outlived that original purpose and the system of tribunals lasted until the mid 18th century, when pre-[unification](#) Italian states began to suppress the local inquisitions, effectively eliminating the power of the church to prosecute heretical crimes.

Roman Inquisition

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The **Roman Inquisition**, formally the **Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Roman and Universal Inquisition**, was a system of partisan tribunals developed by the [Holy See](#) of the [Roman Catholic Church](#), during the second half of the 16th century, responsible for prosecuting individuals accused of a wide array of crimes according to Roman Catholic law and [doctrine](#), relating to catholic religious life or alternative religious or secular beliefs. It was established in 1542 by the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, [Pope Paul III](#). In the period after the [Medieval Inquisition](#), it was one of three different manifestations of the wider [Catholic Inquisition](#) along with the [Spanish Inquisition](#) and [Portuguese Inquisition](#).

Function and functioning^{[\[edit\]](#)}

Main function of the institution was to maintain and implement [papal bulls](#) and other church rulings, in addition to their function of administering legalistic ramifications upon deviants of Catholic orthodoxy within states that cooperated with the pope and ostensibly exhibiting proper procedure to Catholic states in the process of formulating the Counter-Reformation.^[1] The papal bull *Ad abolendam*, by [Lucius III](#), prescribed penalties for heretical clerics and laymen and established a procedure of systematic inquisition by bishops; the third canon of the fourth Lateran Concile (1215) specified procedures against heretics and their accomplices. Clerics were to be degraded from their orders, lay persons were to be branded as infamous and not be admitted to public offices or councils or to run a business, will not have the freedom to make a will nor shall succeed to an inheritance, goods were to be confiscated. A secular leader who "neglects to cleanse his territory of this heretical filth" would be excommunicated and the supreme pontiff could declare his vassals absolved from their fealty to him and make the land available for occupation by Catholics who would possess it unopposed and preserve it in the purity of the faith.^[2]

The organisational system of the Roman Inquisition did differ essentially from that of the Medieval Inquisition. Typically, the [pope](#) appointed one [cardinal](#) to preside over meetings of the Congregation. Though often referred to in historical literature as *Grand Inquisitors*, the role was substantially different from the formally appointed [Grand Inquisitor](#) of the Spanish Inquisition. There were usually ten other cardinals who were members of the Congregation, as well as a [prelate](#) and two assistants all chosen from the [Dominican Order](#). The Holy Office also had an international group of [consultants](#); experienced scholars of [theology](#) and [canon law](#) who advised on specific questions. The congregation, in turn, presided over the activity of local tribunals.

History^{[\[edit\]](#)}

The Roman Inquisition began in 1542 as part of the Catholic Church's Counter-Reformation against the spread of Protestantism, but it represented a less harsh affair than the previously established Spanish Inquisition.^[3] In 1588,^[4] [Pope Sixtus V](#) established, with *Immensa Aeterni Dei*, 15 [congregations](#) of the [Roman Curia](#) of which the [Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Roman and Universal Inquisition](#) was one. In 1908, the congregation was renamed the [Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office](#) and in 1965 it was renamed again and is now known as the [Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith](#).

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**Holy roman empire, history: plague timeline:
The second plague pandemic was a major series of epidemics of plague that started with the Black Death, which reached Europe in 1348 and killed up to half of the population of Eurasia in the next four years. Although the plague died out in most places, it became endemic and recurred regularly. A series of major epidemics occurred in the late 17th-century,**

There have been three major outbreaks of plague. The [Plague of Justinian](#) in the 6th and 7th centuries is the first known attack on record, and marks the first firmly recorded pattern of [plague](#). From historical descriptions, as much as 40% of the population of [Constantinople](#) died from the plague. Modern estimates suggest that half of Europe's population died as a result of this [first plague pandemic](#) before it disappeared in the 700s.^[5] After 750, plague did not appear again in Europe until the Black Death of the 14th-century.^[6]

The second pandemic's origins are disputed; originating either in [Central Asia](#) or [Crimea](#),^{[7][8][9][10][11][12][13]} and appearing in [Crimea](#) by 1347. It may have reduced world population from an estimated 450 million to 350–375 million by the year 1400.^[14] A study published in the journal [Nature](#) in June 2022 found evidence for *Yersinia pestis* in the teeth of early plague victims in the [Tian Shan mountains](#), now north [Kyrgyzstan](#), indicating a likely origin of that iteration of the plague.^[15]

The plague returned at intervals with varying [virulence](#) and mortality until the early 19th-century. In England, for example, the plague returned between 1360 and 1363, killing 20% of Londoners, and then again in 1369, killing 10–15%.^[16]

In the 16th-century, the plague hit [San Cristóbal de La Laguna](#) in the [Canary Islands](#) between 1582 and 1583.^[17]

In the 17th-century, there were a series of "great plague" outbreaks: the [Great Plague of Seville](#) between 1647 and 1652, the [Great Plague of London](#) between 1665 and 1666,^[18] and the [Great Plague of Vienna](#) in 1679.

In the 18th-century, there was the [Great Plague of Marseille](#), which took place between 1720 and 1722;^[19] the [Great Plague of 1738](#), which occurred in Eastern Europe between 1738 and 1740; and the [Russian plague of 1770-1772](#), which took place in [Central Russia](#), and particularly affected Moscow. However, the plague in its virulent form seemed to gradually disappear from Europe, though lingering in Egypt and the Middle East.

By the early 19th-century, the threat of plague had diminished, though it was quickly replaced by the spread of another deadly, infectious disease in the [first cholera pandemic](#), beginning in 1817; the first of several [cholera](#) pandemics to sweep through Asia and Europe during the 19th and 20th centuries.^[20]

The [third plague pandemic](#) hit China in the 1890s and devastated India. While it was largely contained in the East, it became endemic in the western United States, where sporadic outbreaks of plague continue to occur.^[11]

Black Death^[edit]

The **Black Death** (also known as the **Pestilence**, the **Great Mortality** or the **Plague**)^[a] was a [bubonic plague pandemic](#) occurring in [Western Eurasia](#) and [North Africa](#) from 1346 to 1353. It is the [most fatal pandemic](#) recorded in human history, causing the deaths of 75–200 million people,^[1] peaking in [Europe](#) from 1347 to 1351.^{[2][3]}

The Black Death was the second great natural disaster to strike Europe during the Late Middle Ages (the first one being the Great Famine of 1315-1317) and is estimated to have killed 30 percent to 60 percent of the European population, as well as about one-third of the population of the Middle East; European population did not regain its level in 1300 until 1500

mini outbreaks recurred throughout history. rough timeline was provided on wikipedia

The plague repeatedly returned to haunt Europe and the Mediterranean throughout the 14th to 17th centuries.^[159] According to Jean-Noël Biraben, the plague was present somewhere in Europe in every year between 1346 and 1671.^[160] (Note that some

researchers have cautions about the uncritical use of Biraben's data.^[161] The [second pandemic](#) was particularly widespread in the following years: 1360–63; 1374; 1400; 1438–39; 1456–57; 1464–66; 1481–85; 1500–03; 1518–31; 1544–48; 1563–66; 1573–88; 1596–99; 1602–11; 1623–40; 1644–54; and 1664–67. Subsequent outbreaks, though severe, marked the retreat from most of Europe (18th century) and northern Africa (19th century).^[162] The historian George Sussman argued that the plague had not occurred in East Africa until the 1900s.^[83] However, other sources suggest that the Second pandemic did indeed reach Sub-Saharan Africa.^[108]

According to historian [Geoffrey Parker](#), "France alone lost almost a million people to the plague in the epidemic of 1628–31."^[163] In the first half of the 17th century, a plague killed some 1.7 million people in Italy.^[164] More than 1.25 million deaths resulted from the extreme incidence of plague in 17th-century [Spain](#).^[165]

The Black Death ravaged much of the [Islamic world](#).^[166] Plague was present in at least one location in the Islamic world virtually every year between 1500 and 1850.^[167] Plague repeatedly struck the cities of North Africa. [Algiers](#) lost 30,000–50,000 inhabitants to it in 1620–21, and again in 1654–57, 1665, 1691, and 1740–42.^[168] Cairo suffered more than fifty plague epidemics within 150 years from the plague's first appearance, with the final outbreak of the second pandemic there in the 1840s.^[110] Plague remained a major event in [Ottoman](#) society until the second quarter of the 19th century. Between 1701 and 1750, thirty-seven larger and smaller epidemics were recorded in [Constantinople](#), and an additional thirty-one between 1751 and 1800.^[169] [Baghdad](#) has suffered severely from visitations of the plague, and sometimes two-thirds of its population had died.^[170]

holy roman empire, history, stats: Political map of Italy in early 1494, before the invasion of Italy by Charles VIII of France, created by MapMaster



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
File:Italy_1494_AD.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Italy_1494_AD.png)

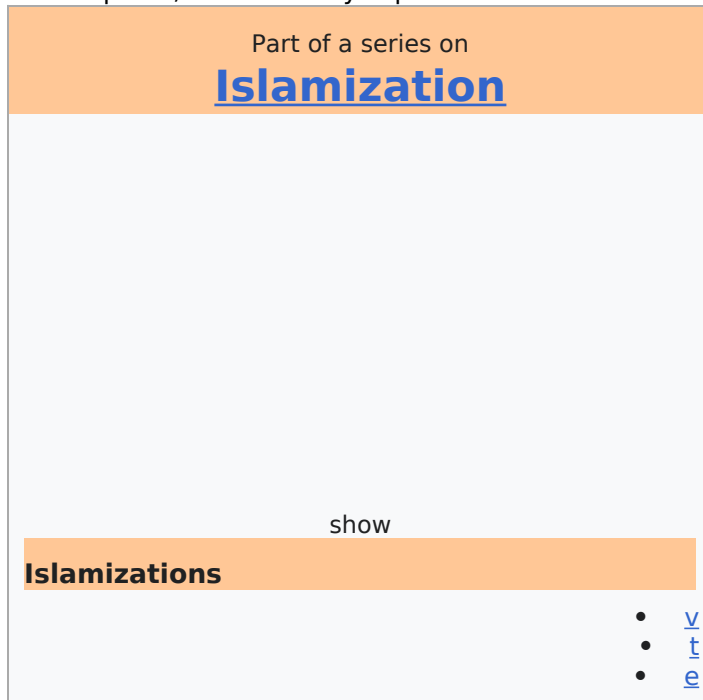
history, holy roman empire, journal, stats: islam has its own version of the inquisition of the holy se, or institution involved in the matter of upholding civil religious orders.

Islamic religious police

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Islamic religious police (also sometimes known as **morality police** or **sharia police**) are official [Islamic vice squad police](#) agencies, often in Islamic countries, which enforce religious observance and [public morality](#) on behalf of national or regional authorities based on its interpretation of [sharia](#).^{[1][2]} Modern Islamic religious police forces were first established in the late-1970s amidst the [Iranian Revolution](#) and the [Islamic revival](#) the revolution brought; prior, the administration of public morality in most Islamic countries was considered a socioreligious matter, and was enforced through application of civil laws or through more informal means.

Church, holy roman empire, history: **Tomás de Torquemada[a] OP (14 October 1420 - 16 September 1498)**, also anglicized as **Thomas of Torquemada**, was a Castilian Dominican friar and first Grand Inquisitor of the Tribunal of the Holy Office (otherwise known as the Spanish Inquisition). , first introduced in 1478: charged with the somewhat ill-defined task of "upholding Catholic religious orthodoxy" within the lands of the newly formed union of the crowns of Castile and Aragon. The lands of this newly formed royal union are now known as the Kingdom of Spain. The number of burnings at the stake during Torquemada's tenure has been estimated at about 2,000.[7]

first [Grand Inquisitor](#) of the [Tribunal of the Holy Office](#) (otherwise known as the Spanish Inquisition). The Spanish Inquisition was a group of ecclesiastical prelates that was created in 1478, and which was charged with the somewhat ill-defined task of "upholding Catholic religious orthodoxy" within the lands of the newly formed union of the crowns of [Castile](#) and [Aragon](#). The lands of this newly formed royal union are now known as the [Kingdom of Spain](#).

Mainly because of persecution, [Muslims](#) and [Jews](#) in Castile and Aragon at that time found it socially, politically, and economically expedient to convert to Catholicism (see [Converso](#), [Morisco](#), and [Marrano](#)).^[1] The existence of superficial converts from Judaism (i.e., [Crypto-Jews](#))^[2] was perceived by the [Catholic Monarchs](#) as a threat to the religious and social life in their realms.^[3] This led Torquemada, who himself was believed to have had [converso](#) ancestors,^[4] to be one of the chief supporters of the [Alhambra Decree](#) that expelled the [Jews](#) from the Crowns of Castile and Aragon in 1492.

Owing to the perception of widespread use of torture to extract confessions, and advocacy of [burning at the stake](#) those deemed guilty, Torquemada's name has become synonymous with cruelty, [religious intolerance](#), and fanaticism.^[5] Although torture was included in inquisition manuals from 1252 onward, it is largely absent from trial records, suggesting that while torture was allowed, it was rarely used.^[6]

Establishment of the Holy Office of the Inquisition[\[edit\]](#)

Torquemada deeply feared the [Marrano](#) and [Morisco](#) as a menace to Spain's welfare by both their increasing religious influence and their economic domination of Spain.^[14] The Crown of Aragon had Dominican inquisitors almost continuously throughout much of the 14th and the 15th centuries. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella petitioned [Pope Sixtus](#)

[IV](#) to grant their request for a Holy Office to administer an inquisition in Spain. The Pope granted their request and established the Holy Office for the Propagation of the Faith in late 1478.

The [papal bull](#) gave the sovereigns full powers to name inquisitors. Rome retained the right to formally appoint the royal nominees. [Henry Charles Lea](#) observed that the Spanish Inquisition in both [Castile](#) and [Aragon](#) remained firmly under Ferdinand's direction throughout the joint reign.^[15]

Grand Inquisitor^[edit]

The Pope went on to appoint a number of inquisitors for the Spanish Kingdoms in early 1482, including Torquemada. A year later he was named Grand Inquisitor of Spain, which he remained until his death in 1498. In 1484, Torquemada relinquished his role as royal confessor to [Diego Deza](#), a Dominican who would eventually succeed him as Grand Inquisitor. The following year, at a general assembly in Seville, Torquemada promulgated the twenty-eight articles of faith that would be used to guide the inquisitors' investigations.^[16]

In the fifteen years under his direction, the Spanish Inquisition grew from a single [tribunal](#) at [Seville](#) to a network of two dozen [Holy Offices](#).^[17] As Grand Inquisitor, Torquemada reorganized the Spanish Inquisition (originally based in [Castile](#) in 1478), establishing tribunals in [Sevilla](#), [Jaén](#), [Córdoba](#), [Ciudad Real](#) and (later) [Saragossa](#). His quest was to rid Spain of all heresy. The Spanish chronicler [Sebastián de Olmedo](#) called him "the hammer of heretics, the light of Spain, the savior of his country, the honor of [his order](#)."

The [Treaty of Granada \(1491\)](#), as negotiated at the final surrender of the Muslim state of [Al-Andalus](#), clearly mandated protection of religious rights,^[18] but this was reversed just over 3 months later by the [Alhambra Decree](#) of March 31, 1492. Under the new decree, approximately 40,000 Jews were expelled from Spain with only their personal possessions. Approximately 50,000 other Jews received Christian baptism to remain in Spain. Many of them, derogatorily dubbed "Marranos" by the [Old Christian](#) majority, secretly kept some of their Jewish traditions.^[19] They were among the chief targets of the Inquisition, but it also pursued anyone who criticized it.

So many clemency petitions were sent to Rome that the Pope became aware of Torquemada's severity, and three times he had called the Inquisition's representatives to Rome. In addition, Isabella and Ferdinand were concerned that so much money was being diverted to the Holy Office that they too protested to the Pope. But Torquemada's power kept him in his position until at least 1494.^[16]

There are various estimates of the number of victims of the Spanish Inquisition during Torquemada's reign as Grand Inquisitor. [Hernando del Pulgar](#), Queen Isabella's secretary, wrote that 2,000 executions took place throughout the entirety of her reign, which extended well beyond Torquemada's death.^[20]

holy roman empire, history: irish destruction in the 1500's during the catholic counter-reformation

Generally, Irish nationalism is regarded as having emerged following the [Renaissance](#) revival of the concept of the *patria* and the religious struggle between the ideology of the Protestant [Reformation](#) and the Catholic [Counter-Reformation](#). At this early stage in the 16th century, Irish nationalism represented an ideal of the native [Gaelic Irish](#) and the [Old English](#) banding together in common cause, under the banner of Catholicism and Irish civic identity ("faith and fatherland/motherland"), ^[10] hoping to protect their land and interests from the [New English](#) Protestant forces sponsored by [England](#). This vision sought to overcome the old ethnic divide between *Gaeil* (the native Irish) and *Gaill* (the Normans) which had been a feature of Irish life since the 12th century, following the [Norman invasion of Ireland](#).

Protestantism in England introduced a religious element to the 16th-century [Tudor conquest of Ireland](#), as many of the native Gaels and [Hiberno-Normans](#) remained Catholic. The [Plantations of Ireland](#) dispossessed many native Catholic landowners in favour of Protestant settlers from England and Scotland.^[11] In addition, the [Plantation of Ulster](#), which began in 1609, "planted" a sizeable population of English and Scottish Protestant settlers into the north of Ireland.

Irish aristocrats waged many campaigns against the English presence. A prime example is the rebellion of [Hugh O'Neill](#) which became known as the [Nine Years' War](#) of 1594–1603, which aimed to expel the English and make Ireland a Spanish [protectorate](#).^[12]

The [green harp flag](#) was first used by [Irish Confederate troops](#) in the [Eleven Years War](#), and became the main symbol of Irish nationalism from the 17th to the early 20th century.

A more significant movement came in the 1640s, after the [Irish Rebellion of 1641](#), when a coalition of Gaelic Irish and [Old English](#) Catholics set up a *de facto* independent Irish state to fight in the [Wars of the Three Kingdoms](#) (see [Confederate Ireland](#)). The Confederate Catholics of Ireland, also known as the Confederation of Kilkenny, emphasised the idea of Ireland as a Kingdom independent from England, albeit under the same monarch. They demanded autonomy for the [Irish Parliament](#), full rights for Catholics and an end to the confiscation of Catholic-owned land. However, the [Cromwellian conquest of Ireland](#) (1649–53) destroyed the Confederate cause and resulted in the permanent dispossession of the old Catholic landowning class.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_nationalism

Stats, government, censorship: feb11 they're goin after your tips now folks..

So Much For Billionaires: Joe Biden's IRS Is Now Coming For Waiters And Waitresses' Tips

BY TYLER DURDEN

FRIDAY, FEB 10, 2023 - 07:40 PM

The Biden administration's lip service about new IRS enforcement only being targeted toward the country's wealthiest appears to be just that: **lip service**.

Instead, while we have been distracted with rhetoric about billionaires paying their fair share, the Biden Administration's IRS is **actually** looking to stock its coffers with the tips of waiters and waitresses across the country. This newly planned targeting of middle-class Americans was proposed this week.

Earlier this week the IRS proposed a new procedure to "improve tip reporting compliance", as they so brilliantly put it. Fox News [reported](#):

As part of the program, which wouldn't go into effect until after a multi-month public comment period, the IRS could withdraw liability protection related to "rules that define tips as part of an employee's pay" from employers that don't cooperate.

The program can't go into effect until it makes it through a multi-month comment period, [Fox News reported](#).

Rep. Mike Kelly, R-Pa., the chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Tax, told Fox this week: **"Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. Now, the IRS is going after middle-income families and working moms and dads who are just trying to make ends meet and put food on the table."**

"My colleagues and I have warned for months that the IRS would start targeting hardworking Americans in the Biden administration's quest for more taxpayer dollars. Now, we're starting to see some of these concerns come to fruition," he continued.

Rep. Adrian Smith, R-Neb., another senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee, agreed.

Smith said: "Bank surveillance efforts, 1099-Ks, 87,000 new IRS agents to target taxpayers, and now a new program to go after service industry workers' tips are all a direct result of the Biden administration's desire to tax working families and small businesses as much as possible."

Smith continued: ***"Make no mistake: the administration's many attempts at raising revenue are because they are unwilling to come to the table to address the debt crisis, which would require curbing their spending addiction."***

"The days of one-party rule are over, and House Republicans will use our majority to ensure hardworking families are not subject to higher taxes and more government mandates, especially not as they struggle under soaring inflation. **Accountability is here - the Biden administration has some explaining to do.**"

Rep. Michelle Steel, R-Calif, commented: "When the IRS comes after you, it's not voluntary. Families across the country are struggling with record inflation and fighting to make ends meet. **The last thing waitresses and waiters need is to be targeted by their own government.**"

Steel continued: "The House's first order of business this year was to pass my bill to defund President Biden's army of 87,000 IRS agents that were ready to increase audits on middle- and lower-income American families. This new rule doesn't add up with President Biden's claim that he will never come after anyone earning less than \$400,000 a year. I strongly oppose this proposed rule and I urge President Biden to reverse course immediately."

Mike Palicz, federal affairs manager at Americans for Tax Reform said the IRS' goal is "to go and grab as much revenue as possible and from whoever they can."

Sanctions, energy, war: First LNG Tanker Arrives At Freeport's Texas Terminal Since 2022 Explosion

About one day after federal energy regulators approved Freeport LNG's request to return vessels to its loading docks, the second-largest US LNG export plant on the Gulf Coast received its first LNG tanker.

For more on today's developments. Here's what Houston-based energy firm [Criterion Research](#) emailed clients:

Freeport LNG made a significant step forward this afternoon with the arrival of its first LNG tanker since June 2022. The Kmarin Diamond is now onsite and at Dock 1, just a day after the FERC gave Freeport permission to return Loop 1 back online, and use Dock 1 for ship loading.

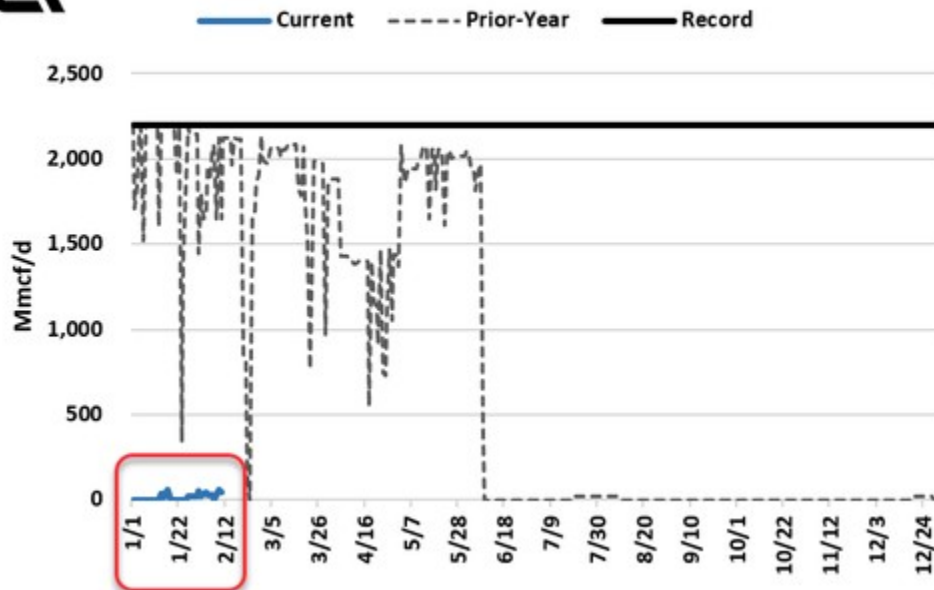
The ship may or may not load down a full cargo, and we believe that the tanker will allow Freeport to offload LNG that has been stored in Tanks #1 and #2 since the terminal shut down.



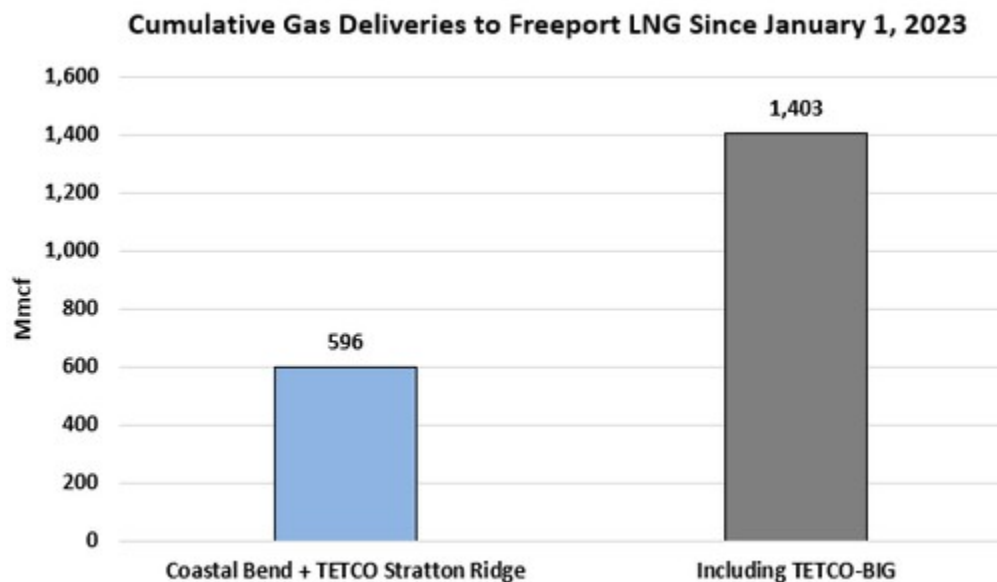
Last week, they were granted approval to "commence commissioning, including cooldown, of the LNG rundown piping system and LNG train 3 (Unit 13)." Freeport is reportedly working through cooldown on Train 3 and rundown work on the line to Tank 2. There is a chance that they start flowing liquefied gas over the weekend as part of that process.



Freeport LNG Nominations



Clearly, they have been flowing at very low rates, with cumulative flows into the terminal since January 1, 2023, totaling 596 Mmcfd if you count Coastal Bend and TETCO's Stratton Ridge station, which both feed directly into the terminal. If you also include the indirect TETCO-BIG station, that total increases to 1,403 Bcf.



The terminal still has not requested approval from the FERC to reinstate service of the liquefaction trains, including rundown piping to tanks, so they are not yet bringing in feed gas for liquefaction. They will need to make that request and receive approval before the resumption of commercial service can start.

Some analysts do not expect a partial restart of the LNG export facility until the end of this month.

Traders want to know how US natural gas prices reacted to this news. Well, NatGas futures are up about 5% late in the cash session. Though we should note a combination of a warm winter, soaring production, and adequate supply has led to a 74% plunge in prices since August.



And for a full restart, Freeport still has to ask federal energy regulators for approval.

14 hours ago

[remove link](#)

Oh, joy! Now we can fillerup with United States natural gas and ship it to Europe at exorbitant prices because Biden blew up the Nord Stream pipeline. Ain't subterfuge and intrigue grand?!

play_arrow15play_arrow1

LaugherNYC1

PREMIUM

13 hours ago

Nordstream was being shut down by sanctions anyway, and could be repaired in 3 weeks.

Try again.

play_arrow1play_arrow10

G-ray

13 hours ago

OK buddy

play_arrow2play_arrow

eyewillcomply

10 hours ago

I pity you, G-Ray.

I'll assume you're naive and not privy to actual historical events. If I am correct, please do some homework and realize that the destruction of the Nordstream Pipeline was done by the United States of America. I know it is hard to grasp this if you are like the millions of others who are enthralled by the lying mainstream media which induces you to believe that Russia is evil and NATO is great.

PLEASE... think. Think. Think.

Learn history. Learn motives. Learn who censors. Question. Ascertain.

You will come to an understanding. We will welcome you into the community of thinkers and problem-solvers.

play_arrow4play_arrow1

G-ray

6 hours ago

I completely agree with you. My comment was directed towards LaugheryNYC.

play_arrow1play_arrow

GeorgeOrwell1984

11 hours ago

So much for saving the planet when they pollute like that. I am not a green fanatic but common sense is what I strive for and blowing up the pipeline was criminal.

play_arrow3play_arrow

MadBrewer

10 hours ago

[BOIL](#)

[ProShares Ultra DJ-UBS Natural Gas \(2x\)](#)

6.69

+0.72 (+12.06%)

Cheers

play_arrow1play_arrow

ZH Influencer

14 hours ago

Biden and his (((frogmen))) will blow it up again if Nat Gas prices get too high domestically.

play_arrow8play_arrow

System Down

14 hours ago

I was thinking Russia might get revenge by going d'anconia copper on the port. But your idea is just as likely. And just as likely to be carried out by our new US Navy terrorists.

play_arrow7play_arrow

truth or go home

13 hours ago

They aren't owned by the United States. Japan built several of them.

play_arrowplay_arrow

inflation millionaire

14 hours ago

This is our resources going out of our country, right?

play_arrow7play_arrow

tyberious

14 hours ago

Gotta feed the Euro Vassals!

play_arrow1play_arrow

SkinnyDoogan

PREMIUM

13 hours ago

No.

They are not our resources. This is not a socialist economy yet.

The gas belongs to the owners of the gas which I would guess is not you.

The owners of these resources have a moral duty to sell it to the highest bidder.

play_arrow4play_arrow2

inflation millionaire

13 hours ago

These companies get no assistance from the US tax payer?

Giveme a****ing break.

play_arrow1play_arrow1

cocoa2000

11 hours ago

What taxpayers? They PRINT the money

play_arrowplay_arrow

GeorgeOrwell1984

11 hours ago

What about the tax breaks and political benefits.

play_arrowplay_arrow

Blankone

12 hours ago

Does that apply to computer chips also? Sell to the highest bidder? How about super computers?

play_arrow1play_arrow

GeorgeOrwell1984

11 hours ago

The Oligarchy care about their bank accounts more than they do about their country. There is no "moral duty" involved in those actions.

play_arrowplay_arrow

LaugherNYC1

PREMIUM

13 hours ago

We have enough NatGas for 200 years.

Selling it to Europe is just fine as long as our companies and shareholders make the profits.

play_arrow2play_arrow1

Blankone

12 hours ago

Many are already finding their utilities companies have doubled the per unit of natural gas since just last year. The NG needs to say IN the USA.

play_arrow2play_arrow1

cocoa2000

11 hours ago

Define our? Do you own of AR or eqt?

play_arrowplay_arrow

bshirley1968

PREMIUM

11 hours ago

(Edited)

What we are witnessing is an all out attempt to neutralize Russia's nut hold on the energy destiny of this world.

Russia can destroy the West without firing a shot by starving the West's economy and debt tumor of the energy it needs. Without that energy, Western society will collapse and eat itself from within.

That is the threat to Western hegemony. That is the reason there is an all out press on energy reduction and conservation. They are trying to insulate themselves from Russian energy influence and cut Russia off from its income resources and leverage.

play_arrow4play_arrow

A fool and his money

14 hours ago

Got in UNG last week

It will fly again since we can export and screw us in the name of Ukraine

play_arrow4play_arrow

cocoa2000

11 hours ago

Bot boil thursday 5.93

play_arrowplay_arrow

dog

14 hours ago

Damn I have been waiting for BOIL to turn around and it is starting to look like it's time to jump in that frying pan.

play_arrow4play_arrow

cocoa2000

11 hours ago

Yep,,freakin white knuckle trading I haven't slept all week.

play_arrow1play_arrow

paid_attention

12 hours ago

Biden's not going to send black ops to blow it up again??

play_arrow3play_arrow

truth or go home

13 hours ago

Those LNG plants are just giant air conditioners that cool the gas down to a liquid temperature, then hold it under pressure. They cost \$6-8 billion to build.

I could hardly believe it, but I heard one shipment of LNG is worth something like \$3.5 Billion

play_arrow2play_arrow

BingoBoggins

12 hours ago

wtf? those numbers are staggering.

play_arrow2play_arrow

End Times Prophecies

13 hours ago

Yeh well that don't mean sheit. The Market Price for a dozen eggs is just over \$2,00 since DECEMBER and it's still \$5.00 in the PoS criminal price gouging stores. WTF is taking so long for the corresponding drop on the retail end?

My analysis is accurate. 85% of so called inflation is market manipulated stealing and rest is inflation. One criminal corporation after another with one planned event after another has been used to steal Trillions over the last two years. Simple and easy to trace and hold accountable every since cent and equivalent it the RICO Traitor hierarchy didn't interfere. So it'll have to be destroyed for the good of the Planet and everywhere else.

play_arrow2play_arrow1

cocoa2000

11 hours ago

What country and yr are you living in. Turn the page it ain't 1955. Rico 🤔
🤔🤔,,,lama still waiting for Epstein files🤔🤔🤔

play_arrowplay_arrow

Freespeaker

10 hours ago

How can the CIA help? We do like to blow stuff up.

play_arrow1play_arrow

BingoBoggins

12 hours ago

Drill, Baby, Drill !!

play_arrow1play_arrow

KatLivesKatter

14 hours ago

Uh oh... Bidens about to send in the divers.

play_arrow1play_arrow

Cobra Commander

10 hours ago

(Edited)

Gas pumps in Las Vegas are crazy right now -- relative tells me lines at every pump.

Cobra!

play_arrowplay_arrow

DEMIZEN

11 hours ago

(Edited)

if this goes to 11 again ill be lmao. the volatility of NG is really something, but i doubt it - not without another few kabooms

then, never say never, i wouldnt be suprised if 4.5 - 5 range returns. oil too, could pop here

play_arrowplay_arrow

LaugherNYC1

PREMIUM

13 hours ago

Down 74% since August??

Ouch!! Poutine is gonna write his Senator

play_arrow

Censorship, government: feb11 GoFundMe Takes Down Campaigns For Arizona Rancher Accused Of Shooting Illegal Alien

"Any fundraising campaigns for the legal defense of someone charged with murder are removed from our platform..."

War, sanctions, russia: feb11 Secretive Russian Satellite Breaks Apart In Orbit, Creating Debris Cloud

A secretive Russian satellite launched nearly a decade ago has experienced a "breakup" in outer space, according to a tweet published by the US Space Force's 18th Space Defense Squadron.

The Space Force said the Kosmos 2499 spacecraft disintegrated on Jan. 4 and unleashed a hazardous cloud of debris orbiting the planet.

Business Insider and Space.com cited RussianSpaceWeb.com's Anatoly Zak, who said Russia launched a rocket in late 2013, supposedly carrying three military communications satellites into orbit. But it wasn't until space trackers found a fourth and very mysterious spacecraft (Kosmos 2499) that was also released into orbit.

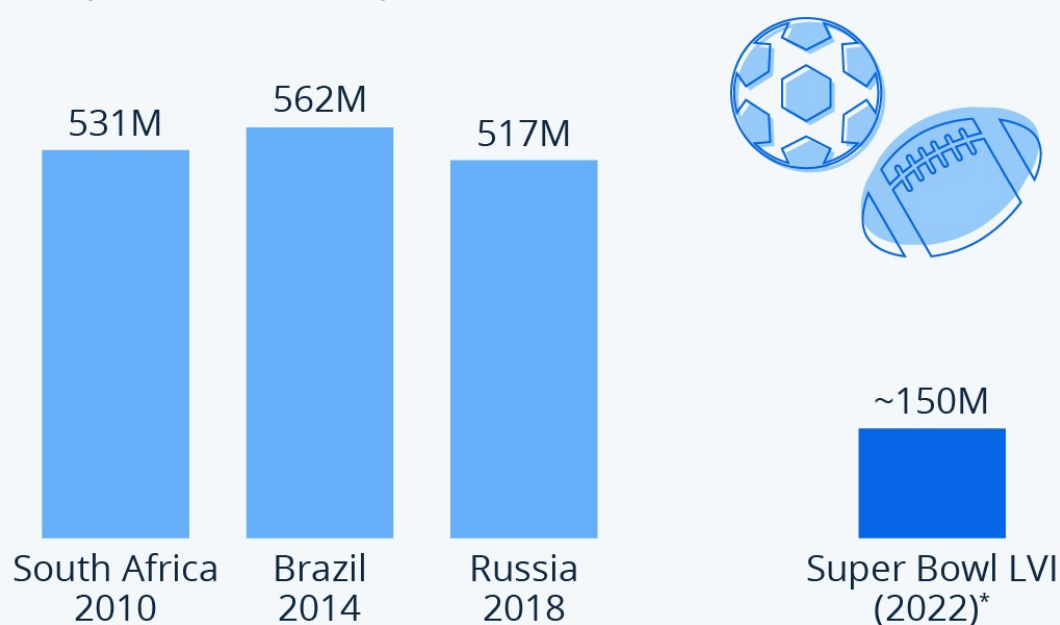
Zak said the head of Roscosmos in 2014 assured world leaders that Kosmos 2499 wasn't a "killer satellite." Roscosmos never revealed the satellite's mission.

As for space debris, Brian Weeden, an expert in space junk at the Secure World Foundation, told Ars Technica this is likely not a catastrophic event.

Stats: feb11

Super Bowl Pales in Comparison to the Biggest Game in Soccer

Average global TV viewership of FIFA World Cup Finals compared to the Super Bowl



* The 2022 Super Bowl drew an average TV audience of 99.2 million in the U.S. Estimates for international viewership range from 30 to 50 million.

Sources: FIFA, Nielsen, media reports



statista

superbowl compared to soccer: it pales in comparison...

War, middle east, energy: feb11 key, gives us forces iraq rough timeline: One year ago this month, the US security relationship with Iraq fully transitioning to a role of advising, assisting, and enabling Iraqi Security Forces

Military Operations Conducted Pursuant to the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force and in Support of Related United States Counterterrorism Objectives

Since October 7, 2001, United States Armed Forces, including Special Operations Forces, have conducted counterterrorism combat operations, including against al-Qa'ida and associated forces. Since August 2014, these operations have included targeting the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which was formerly known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. In support of these and other overseas operations, the United States has deployed combat-equipped forces to several locations in the United States Central, European, Africa, Southern, and Indo-Pacific Commands' areas of responsibility. Such operations and deployments have been reported previously, consistent with Public Law 107-40, Public Law 107-243, the War Powers Resolution, and other statutes. These ongoing operations, which the United States has carried out with the assistance of numerous international partners, have been successful in seriously degrading ISIS capabilities in Syria and Iraq. If necessary, in response to terrorist threats, I will direct additional measures to protect the people and interests of the United States. It is not possible to know at this time the precise scope or the duration of the deployments of United States Armed Forces that are or will be necessary to counter terrorist threats to the United States.

Afghanistan. On April 14, 2021, I directed the withdrawal of United States forces from Afghanistan. That withdrawal was completed by August 31,

2021. The United States has relocated counterterrorism capabilities outside Afghanistan and remains postured to address threats to the United States homeland and United States interests that may arise from inside Afghanistan.

Iraq and Syria. As part of a comprehensive strategy to defeat ISIS, United States Armed Forces are working by, with, and through local partners in conducting airstrikes and other necessary operations against ISIS forces in Iraq and Syria and against al-Qa'ida in Syria. A small presence of United States Armed Forces remains in strategically significant locations in Syria to conduct operations, in partnership with indigenous ground forces, to address continuing terrorist threats emanating from Syria. United States Armed Forces in Iraq continue to advise, assist, and enable select elements of the Iraqi security forces, including Iraqi Kurdish security forces. United States Armed Forces also provide limited support to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mission in Iraq. Actions in Iraq are being undertaken in coordination with the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government, and in conjunction with Coalition partners. As noted in the July 26, 2021, Joint Statement on the United States-Iraq Strategic Dialogue, the United States security relationship with Iraq will fully transition to a training, advising, assisting, and intelligence-sharing role, and there will be no United States forces with a combat role in Iraq after December 31, 2021.

As reported in June 2021, I directed targeted strikes against facilities at two locations in Syria and one location in Iraq near the Iraq-Syria border. These facilities were used by Iran-backed militia groups that were involved in a series of attacks against United States personnel and facilities in Iraq. These attacks had escalated in the months leading up to the strikes and injured and threatened the lives of United States and Coalition personnel. I

directed this action consistent with my responsibility to protect United States citizens both at home and abroad and in furtherance of United States national security interests, pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct United States foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

hitehousedotgov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/07/letter-to-the-speaker-of-the-house-and-president-pro-tempore-of-the-senate-regarding-the-war-powers-report-2/

[News|Joe Biden](#)

US-led combat mission in Iraq ends, shifting to advisory role

The United States will continue to provide assistance, advice and training to Iraqi forces, Iraqi and US officials say.

9 Dec 2021

/

Updated:

9 Dec 2021

05:04 PM (GMT)

United States-led forces have ended their combat mission in Iraq, senior US and Iraqi officials said, as the coalition transitions to an advisory role assisting Iraqi forces.

Qassim al-Araji, Iraq's national security adviser, said on Thursday that a final round of technical talks to formally end the US-led combat mission, which was tasked with rooting out ISIL (ISIS) in the country, had concluded.

KEEP READING

list of 3 itemslist 1 of 3

[Probe in drone attack on Iraq PM yet to identify attackers](#)

list 2 of 3

[Several civilians and Peshmerga killed by ISIL in Iraq's Makhmour](#)
list 3 of 3
[US carries out air raids on Iran-backed militias in Syria, Iraq](#)
end of list

"We are officially announcing the end of the coalition forces' combat mission," al-Araji wrote on Twitter, adding that the coalition would continue providing assistance, advice and training to Iraqi forces.

Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga Brigadier General Hazhar Ismail, who attended the meeting in Baghdad, also told reporters the US-led coalition said it was ready to end the mission sooner than the previous deadline. "They said we are ready starting from today," he said.

"Many brave men and women gave their lives to ensure Daesh never returns, and as we complete our combat role, we will remain here to advise, assist and enable [Iraqi security forces], at the invitation of Republic of Iraq," [said](#) coalition commander Major General John Brennan, referring to ISIL (ISIS) by its Arabic acronym.

But the war against the group is not over, Brennan added. "Daesh is down, but not out."

The formal end of the combat mission is unlikely to change the facts on the ground; the coalition stopped engaging in combat missions early in 2020, and since then, the main US focus has been assisting Iraqi forces.

Iraqi Staff Lieutenant General Abdul Amir al-Shammari, deputy commander of the Joint Operations Command for Iraq, said Iraqi forces were ready to take up the fight against ISIL. "Our soldiers have demonstrated their ability to maintain the defeat of Daesh, and we look toward the future with hope, providing stability, security, and prosperity for the men and women of Iraq," he [said](#).

History of intervention

The US invaded Iraq in 2003 amid its global “war on terror”, reaching a peak of about 170,000 soldiers in the country in 2007 before withdrawing forces in 2011.

US forces were redeployed to Iraq in 2014 in response to the rise of ISIL, as the armed group overran a large swath of territory across Iraq and Syria.

However, US troops have largely been acting as advisers and trainers since mid-2020, when they stopped directly engaging in combat operations. Another 900 US troops remain in Syria, although their withdrawal [is not expected](#) any time soon.

ISIL lost its last piece of territory in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria in 2019, although there has been an [uptick in attacks](#), including in Iraq’s northern semi-autonomous Kurdish region, in recent months.

History, church: feb11 so 41% of irelands population was killed during the english civil war, or war of three kindoms in the mid 1600's. Had to verify that figure, but its as true as anything else I could read that I would consider credible online.

For example, **Norway, Sweden, North Korea, Israel, and Eritrea** conscript both men and women. However, only Norway and Sweden have a gender-neutral conscription system, where men and women are conscripted and serve on equal formal terms.



mwhahahahahahaha..

turn on the intro beat. Here comes reality. This is like your santa clause isnt real moment, but for adults! You'll grow as a person from it--trust me.

Compulsory military service for both genders[\[edit\]](#)

- [Cape Verde](#)^[14] (2 years selective)
- [Chad](#)^[14] (3 years for men. 1 year for women. Civilian service for the age of 21)
- [Eritrea](#)^[14] (Indefinite period, usually up to 10 years for women and 15 for men)
- [Israel](#)^[14] (32 months for men^[15] and 2 years for women)
- [Morocco](#)^[16] (1 year)
- [Norway](#)^[14] (19 months, selective)
- [North Korea](#)^[14] (10 years for men, upon high school completion to 23 years of age for women)
- [Sweden](#)^{[4][14]} (11 months, selective)

Military service limited to 1 year or less[\[edit\]](#)

This list is [incomplete](#); you can help by [adding missing](#).

[items](#). (April 2012)

The following twenty countries have been identified as having compulsory military service limited to 1 year or less:

- [Algeria](#) (1 year)
- [Bolivia](#) (1 year)
- [Brazil](#) (9–12 months, can be extended to a max of 7 years; the conscript may be discharged by excess of contingent)
- [Colombia](#) (1–2 years depending on MOS and branch)
- [Estonia](#) (8–11 months)
- [France](#) (1 month, age 16–18)
- [Greece](#) (1 year)
- [Guatemala](#) (1–2 years)
- [Kazakhstan](#) (1 year)
- [Kyrgyzstan](#) (1 year)
- [Lithuania](#) (9 months^[17])
- [Moldova](#) (1 year)
- [Mongolia](#) (1 year)
- [Morocco](#) (1 year)
- [Paraguay](#) (1 year for Army, 2 years for Navy)
- [Qatar](#) (4–12 months)
- [Russia](#) (1 year)
- [Sweden](#) (9–11 months)
- [Taiwan](#) (4 months)
- [Tunisia](#) (1 year)
- [Turkey](#) (6–12 months)
- [Uzbekistan](#) (1 year)

Military service limited to 18 months^{[[edit](#)]}

This list is [incomplete](#); you can help by [adding missing items](#). (August 2018)

The following 11 countries have been identified to having compulsory military service limited to 18 months or less:

- [Azerbaijan](#) (between 1 and 2 years)
- [Belarus](#) (6–12 months for undergraduate school alumni)
- [Benin](#)
- [Cambodia](#)
- [Cyprus](#) (18 months civilian, 14 armed)

- [Egypt](#) (14 months service minimum obligation)
- [Georgia](#)
- [Kuwait](#)
- [Laos](#)
- [UAE](#) (16 months for high school diploma holders)
- [Ukraine](#) (12 months for holding master's degree, 18 months for others)^[18]

Military service longer than 18 months^[edit]

This list is [incomplete](#); you can help by [adding missing items](#). (April 2012)

The following 27 countries have been identified as having compulsory military service terms longer than 18 months:

- [Armenia](#) (2 years)
- [Angola](#) (2 years plus a training period, civilian or non-combatant option available)
- [Chad](#) (3 years men, 1 year women. Civil service available only for women)
- [Cuba](#) (2 years)
- [Eritrea](#) (18 months officially, in practice indefinite; see [National Service in Eritrea](#))
- [Equatorial Guinea](#) (2 years, selective)
- [Guinea-Bissau](#) (2 years, selective)
- [Iran](#) (2 years)
- [Israel](#) (3 years for men, 2 years for women)^[19]
- [North Korea](#) (11 years for men, 7 years for women)^{[20][21][22][23]}
- [Libya](#) (2 years)
- [Mali](#) (2 years, selective)
- [Mozambique](#) (2 years, selective)
- [Niger](#) (2 years, selective)
- [São Tomé and Príncipe](#) (2 years)
- [Senegal](#) (2 years, selective)
- [Singapore](#) (22 months to 2 years, without regard to Full-Time National Service in the Singapore Civil Defence Force or Singapore Police Force, under the Ministry of Home Affairs)^[24]
- [South Korea](#) (18 months for Army and Marines, 20 months for Navy, 21 months for Air Force and Social Service, 3 years for special Social Service)
- [Sudan](#) (1–2 years, both sexes)

- [Syria](#) (2 years Army & Air force, 18 months in the Navy)
- [Tajikistan](#) (2 years)
- [Thailand](#) (2 years for involuntarily drafted men, 1 years for volunteers, 6 months for diploma^{[clarification needed](#)})
- [Turkmenistan](#) (2 years)
- [UAE](#) (3 years, for [high school dropouts](#))
- [Vietnam](#) (2 years, selective)
- [Venezuela](#) (2 years)

No defense force^{[edit](#)}

Main article: [List of countries without armed forces](#)

The following nineteen countries have been identified as having no defense forces or as having no standing army but having very limited military forces:

- [Andorra](#)
- [Costa Rica](#)
- [Dominica](#)
- [Federated States of Micronesia](#)
- [Grenada](#)
- [Iceland](#)*
- [Kiribati](#)
- [Liechtenstein](#)
- [Marshall Islands](#)
- [Mauritius](#)*
- [Monaco](#)*
- [Nauru](#)
- [Palau](#)
- [Panama](#)*
- [Samoa](#)
- [Solomon Islands](#)
- [Tuvalu](#)
- [Vanuatu](#)*
- [Vatican City](#)*

* Countries having no standing army, but having very limited military forces.



Counting in accidents and the two Bishops' wars, an estimate of 190,000 dead is achieved,^[150] out of a total population of about five million.^[151] It is estimated that from 1638 to 1651, 15%–20% of all adult males in England and Wales served in the military. Around 4% of the total population died from war-related causes, compared to 2.23% in the [First World War](#).

Unknown; 15,000–20,000 battlefield casualties	8,000 New Model Army soldiers killed, ~7,000 locally raised soldiers killed
~50,000 deported as indentured labourers ^{[1][2]}	
200,000–600,000 civilian casualties (from war-related violence, famine or disease) ^[3]	

Total excess deaths for the entire period of the Wars of the Three Kingdoms in Ireland was estimated by [Sir William Petty](#), the 17th century economist, to be 600,000 out of a



This has caused a 'payment shock' as elevated rates, high home prices, and faltering wage growth have priced out millions of Americans.

According to the National Association of Realtors, today's souring homebuying environment has been described as the 'worst in decades'.



None of this should surprise readers since we first stated in March that soaring interest rates would significantly challenge [housing affordability](#).

Today, we see the "[Death Of The American Dream And Home Ownership](#)." And what's the result: you'll rent and own nothing... Well, that's a very similar statement from the World Economic Forum: by 2030, "you'll own nothing, and you'll (still) be happy.

More importantly, all of this suggests home prices could be on the [cusp of a major downturn](#).



We suspect 2023 will be a tumultuous year for the [housing market until the Fed pivots](#).

... And we almost forgot that a Bloomberg OP-ED earlier this year said anyone earning less than \$300k should eat lentils.



Bloomberg Opinion ✓
@bopinion

...

Inflation stings most if you earn less than \$300K. Here's how to deal:

- ➡ Take the bus
- ➡ Don't buy in bulk
- ➡ Try lentils instead of meat
- ➡ Nobody said this would be fun

Stats, war, sanctions: nov17 new tool shows map of us bases

<https://worldbeyondwar.org/no-bases/>

stats, government, markets, journal:

interesting comment found in zh comments section.

International central banking was officially started in 1099. By **** in the Lombardi region of Italy

Funny how you IRS form is coded 1099. I wonder how that came about?

The **** financed and insured grain, its harvest, marketing and delivery and crop losses, but based these on "futures" pricing. What was the value of the grain not at harvest, but when it reached a distant market? Thats how they made a good profit, and they charged usury of course, which Christian and Muslims were forbidden to do.

They now just do that in every market worldwide. Cohencidence?

No. Ye was right all along. There is a reason for them being kicked out of 115 city states, countries and protectorates since the exodus. If only those poor persecuted people (that you can't criticize) could explain why that is...

censorship, government, history: nov17 picture



Gena Suarez · [Follow](#)

6h · 🌐



A New York 8th grader drew this. Perspective. HER perspective. 🤔



Russia, war, sanctions, inflation: nov15 Interest on the national debt was \$399 billion in FY22, up from under \$300 billion in FY16, and is now on track to exceed \$700 billion in FY24.

theburningplatformdotcom/2022/11/14/fourth-turning-winter-of-death

energy, sanctions, war: pipeline stats

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/europes-alternatives-if-russia-shuts-off-gas-supply-2022-10-20/>

stats, war, markets, government,
history, journal: nov15 they declared force majeure..get it? "yeah, something happened, (cough) ".

A force majeure clause is **a contractual provision stating that certain contractual obligations are suspended on certain triggering events.** (Typically, in a lease, a force majeure clause will go on to state that in any event, the obligation to pay rent and other sums will not be suspended.)Jul 27, 2022

[What Is a Force Majeure Contract Clause, and How Does It Work?](https://investopedia.com/What-Is-a-Force-Majeure-Contract-Clause-and-How-Does-It-Work/)
(investopedia.com)

Censorship, journal, readlater: nice free speech article with tons of links
<https://jonathanturley.org/2022/11/12/your-words-are-violence-coulter-cancelled-at-cornell/>

energy, stats: nov12 great energy infographic

<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/sp/why-fusion-will-power-the-race-to-net-zero/>

stats, media: nov12 incredible infographic shows prices of illegal passports (The Dark Web Price Index 2022)

https://cms.zerohedge.com/s3/files/inline-images/2022-11-11_12-34-31.jpg?itok=7zng35Eu

ai, tech: nov8 Scientists used machine learning to develop a transparent window coating

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-11381285/Scientists-develop-transparent-window-coating-cool-buildings-without-using-energy.html>

journ, ai, tech: incredible new boston dynamics investmentwatchblogdotcom/new-killer-bots-just-dropped/

journal, stats, history: the internet was created by a brit

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Berners-Lee

journal: data centers for the internet

<https://wordpress.com/forums/topic/wordpress-data-center-locations/>

<https://history-computer.com/the-10-largest-web-hosting-companies-in-the-world-and-what-they-do/>

"While people often think of the Internet as an immaterial object, the data that makes up the Internet is actually stored at a very physical location: data servers. Businesses sometimes operate their own servers or rent out servers from data centers, enabling them to store online files -- like those that make up a website -- and make them globally accessible. Essentially, an Internet data center server is the saving location for files accessible from the Internet."

<https://smallbusiness.chron.com/internet-data-center-server-work-60422.html>

<https://www.wired.com/2014/05/stunning-photos-of-the-internets-hidden-infrastructure/>

energy, sanctions, war, Russia: Where \$2 Trillion Of German Value Depends On \$20 Billion Of Russian Gas
zerohedgedotcom/markets/zoltan-what-new-world-order-will-look-after-europes-minsky-moment-where-2-trillion-german

war, stats, history: aug26 scorched earth

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scorched_earth

journal, stats, markets: aug23 price of water does not reflect its real value
<https://www.ft.com/content/62ae2f7f-5101-4bae-9a89-884aa6a00d13>

tech, stats, ai: aug25 Quantum Leaps, Long Assumed to Be Instantaneous, Take Time
https://getpocket.com/explore/item/quantum-leaps-long-assumed-to-be-instantaneous-take-time?utm_source=pocket-newtab

censorship, government, journal: wired article about spyware and nso group
https://www.wired.com/story/europe-spyware-scandals-greece/?utm_source=pocket-newtab

censorship, government, journal: aug15 Phone Apps 'legal malware': cybersecurity expert

"They Can Do Audio, Video, & Physical Surveillance On You 24H/365D A Year": Rex Lee On Intrusive Apps

by Tyler Durden
Sunday, Aug 14, 2022 - 08:25 PM

[In this special episode, The Epoch Times' Tiffany Meier sat down with Rex M. Lee](#), cybersecurity adviser at [My Smart Privacy](#). He helps shed light on [China](#)'s cyberattacks on America, how they affect us in our daily lives, and what can be done to stop them.

Lee notes one way adversarial countries can get in is through invasive apps:

"You have to look at an app as legal malware. And that's the best way you can describe apps today. An app—whether it's a social media app developed by Bytedance, such as TikTok, or Facebook, or Instagram—any of these apps, they are basically legal malware that enable the developer to monitor, track, and data mine the end user for financial gain 24 by seven, 365 days a year.

"A single intrusive app enables the developer to collect over 5,000 highly confidential data points associated with the end user's personal information, business information, medical information, legal information, and employment information because **the surveillance and data mining done by these companies is indiscriminate**, meaning that they're not only collecting consumer information, they're collecting every bit of information from the end user, including text messages, email, email attachments, calendar events, and so forth," he added.

As to just how invasive these are, Lee said:

“What an app will do is it will interlink with all of the hardware on the device and the sensors on the device, such as camera and microphone, as well as sensors, such as the accelerometer. So they can do audio, video and physical surveillance on you 24 hours, 365 days a year while collecting those 5,000 highly confidential data points on the end user. What they’re doing is they package that and they monetize it. But also, as we’re seeing in the news, is that these tech companies are aligned with governments. So the information a lot of times is ending up in the hands of the government.”

Meier also sat down with Greg Copley, president of the International Strategic Studies Association and author of [“The New Total War.”](#) He touches on the recent buzz over House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s trip to Taiwan and what that means for this November, both in terms of our midterm elections and Chinese leader Xi Jinping seeking an unprecedented third term.

Copley said:

“We’re now getting a better idea as to how the People’s Liberation Army [PLA] would fight a war against Taiwan, if it came to that. And if they in fact allowed the General Secretary Xi to make them go to war on the Taiwan issue, Japan has made it clear, and it repeated that declaration during Speaker Pelosi’s visit, that Japan would support Taiwan in the event of a military attack by the People’s Republic of China. Certainly, the U.S. will be drawn into it one way or another. Yes, it would involve high risks and the potential for many casualties. But it would also involve higher risks for the People’s Republic of China, not just in the direct conflict between the PLA and the Republic of China armed forces and the United States armed forces and the Japanese self-defense forces, but also there are other forces who would become engaged automatically.

“That probably would include Australia, but it would certainly include India, and the Indian factor is one which Beijing does not wish to discuss openly. Even in the current war game posture against Taiwan, the PLA started moving additional forces down into the Tibetan plateau to be ready for an Indian response there. The Indian response would be massive. India has a similar force capability in many respects to the People’s Republic of China, and could move the entirety of its forces against the PRC, both on the Tibetan plateau and in the Eurasian context, but also in the Indian Ocean in a naval context,” he added.

Watch the full interview below:

<https://www.zerohedge.com/markets/they-can-do-audio-video-physical-surveillance-you-24h365d-year-rex-lee-intrusive-apps>

**stats, markets, government, war, sanctions,
china: aug8 Taiwan Semiconductor
Manufacturing Company: 53% of the foundry
market**

<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/top-10-semiconductor-companies-by-market-share/>

<https://warontherocks.com/2020/06/the-chip-wars-of-the-21st-century/>

